



DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

Ever considered squirrel watching on the Eastern Shore? "What?" you ask, "is this guy crazy?" No comment on the latter, but there is a reason to consider such. Delmarva fox squirrels are an endangered species found only on the Delmarva Peninsula, primarily on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and information on their current distribution is needed.

Delmarva fox squirrels look similar to the common gray squirrel, but to someone (like a bird watcher) with the ability to detect slight differences in appearance, identification is not difficult. The Delmarva fox squirrel is larger than the common gray squirrel, about one-and-a-half times in size. It has a much bushier tail, like a fox's. The color of its fur is uniformly steel gray, compared to the gray with the rusty-colored head, tail, and shoulders of the common gray squirrel. The feet of the Delmarva fox squirrel are white, and while running through the woods it appears to be wearing white slippers.

Delmarva fox squirrels spend a lot of time on the ground on the forest floor or along the edges of agricultural fields. They can be seen feeding in these fields during the spring and fall. They also occur along the shoulders of country roads, occasionally running in front of moving vehicles. So keep your eyes open!

The species is endangered because of loss of habitat and small population dynamics. It was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1967, one of the first species to be classified as endangered. By the time of its listing, the Delmarva fox squirrel's range had contracted nearly 90%. Where once it roamed throughout the Delmarva Peninsula and into southeastern Pennsylvania, by the late 1960s it could be found in only parts of four Maryland counties: Dorchester, Talbot, southern Queen Anne's, and on Eastern Neck Island in Kent County.

Today the squirrel still occurs where it did in the 1960s and in greater abundance. Its range has also increased over the past 20 years. Some of this increase is the result of management actions taken by DNR, while some is the result of natural expansion. We have reintroduced Delmarva fox squirrels to at least one location in every county on the Eastern Shore, including three sites each in Kent and Somerset counties, two in Worcester, and one each in Caroline, Cecil, and Wicomico counties. Reintroductions have also been conducted at two sites each in Delaware and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and at one site in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Here's where you can help. Surveying for Delmarva fox squirrels is time consuming

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THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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MARCH/APRIL 2000

Conference 2000 and Beyond by Mike Callahan

The 2000 Conference Planning Committee is hard at work planning your Annual Conference in Hagerstown for May 19 - 21, 2000. If you have never served on a conference planning committee, you likely aren't aware of the amount of planning and coordination that goes on behind the scenes. I would like to take this opportunity to just thank the wonderful crew serving you this year. They are the Washington and Frederick Chapters being lead by local Conference Coordinator Dave Weesner. This group of dedicated individuals are all volunteers and doing what most conference planners in the business world get paid to do. It has never ceased to amaze me in the past how MOS pulls off such a successful event like the Annual Conference with a completely volunteer staff. It is a tribute to their dedication and a gift to our organization. Prior to the conference you will receive a list of the field trip locations in the mail. This will help you decide on what trips you would like to go, however field trip sign up will not begin until the conference opens up at noon. John Malcolm has finished with the pin contest judging and T-shirts with the design will be available again this year. Vice President Karen Morley has ordered some great new MOS souvenir items including coffee mugs. I can't wait to see them and buy some. The items sold this year will again be made available to the Chapters for sale at their meetings. Please buy them to help publicize and support MOS and our mission.

Registrar Janet Shields is awaiting your registration and so far only about 40 people have registered with her. The Ramada Inn has blocked only 90 rooms for MOS and will not guarantee us the MOS rate after the block is filled. Reserve early and don't miss out on the great rate of \$69.00 a night. You can make your room reservation at 1-888-528-6738 and don't forget to mention the Maryland Ornithological Society.

Traditions are meant to be broken, but this year we have brought back an old Conference tradition. An identification workshop is planned for Friday afternoon. This year's topic will be Warbler Identification and I am

(continued on page 8, middle of column 1)

Chapter Chatter

by
Martha Waugh

Mark Your Calendar — The annual MOS conference will be held in Hagerstown May 19-21, 2000. This is the first time MOS has met in Hagerstown. Be sure to mark your calendar and, as rooms at the Ramada Inn may be scarce, make your reservations now. Both the Washington and Frederick chapters are working hard to make this a memorable conference. Volunteers for field trip leaders are needed. Please contact Janet Shields at Janetbill@Prodigy.net if you can help.

Montgomery Mourns Loss of Ann Kennedy — Ann Kennedy, long-time Montgomery Chapter member, died of leukemia on October 12. She left the Chapter a bequest which will be used toward publishing the Montgomery County site guide, now underway. Ann graduated from Grinnell College in 1939 with a degree in music/piano and voice. She left teaching music in Iowa public schools to join the American Red Cross in

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WSB '2000 — An Update

by Norm Saunders



In the last issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat* I announced that once again the MOS is going to the World Series of Birding. So far since that announcement we have received several generous donations and a small number of pledges. To make the World Series team the success it can be, we need pledges or donations from every one of you! Right now our team has at least three returning from last year: Hal Wierenga, Lynn Davidson, and Marshall Iliff!

What about last year? Well the WSB '99 team netted over \$1,800 for MOS. The MOS Board has again decided to use that money to fund an extra Year 2000 National Audubon Society Summer Fellowship Program scholarship to be awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The remaining funds will be put under the coordination of the MOS Gifts Committee. If you ask people to make a pledge and they want to know what the money will go for, tell them what we did with last year's funds and let them know it will be for the on-going support of our various community outreach programs—Sanctuaries, Research, Scholarship, and Education.

In addition to donations or pledges, we are looking for Windbreaker Pledges. We want our team to look like a team, with baseball caps and distinctive windbreakers. For a "Windbreaker Pledge" of only \$100, you will be identified as a very special supporter of our team indeed!

So come on and get on the bandwagon. I have a feeling that this year's team will be an even greater success than last year's. Don't be left behind!

THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444, bguion@us.net.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Larry Fry, 1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21212, (410) 452-8539 or at (800) 823-0050 (410-452-5611 in the Bel Air calling area). Larry's e-mail address is: jlfry@netfox.net

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the May/June 2000 issue are:

May-August Calendar Activities:
March 25, 2000

All Other Submissions:
April 1, 2000

MOS 2000 World Series of Birding Pledge Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

___ My contribution of \$_____ to the MOS World Series of Birding Team is enclosed.

___ I want to make a "Windbreaker Pledge!" Here is my check for \$100!

___ My pledge of \$_____ per species seen (expected to range between 150 and 200 species, we will contact you with the actual count by May 31).

Please mail this pledge form (and your check made payable to the Maryland Ornithological Society if you are making an outright contribution) to: Norm Saunders, MOS President, 1261 Cavendish Drive, Colesville, MD 20905-7030. Pledges may also be submitted to Norm via e-mail at: marshhawk@worldnet.att.net.

MOS 2000 Annual Conference A Call For Papers by Dave Brinker

The MOS Research Committee sponsors oral presentations at our annual conferences. The next conference is scheduled for 19-21 May 2000 at Hagerstown in Washington County. If you would like to share the results of any research on the natural history of Maryland birdlife, please contact Dave Brinker by e-mail at dbrinker@bellatlantic.net, or by phone at (410) 744-3246, or by 15 April, send an abstract to: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228.



What is a MDOsprey???

If you don't know, then point your web browser at:

<http://mdosprey.home.att.net>
and find out!

DNR Reports . . .*(continued from page 1, column 1)*

and we do not have the resources to do an adequate job of finding all the new areas that the squirrel has moved into. We need more eyes and binoculars. That's you; an experienced birdwatcher with binoculars and the ability to detect differences in animal appearances.

If interested, all you need to do is go birdwatching on the Eastern Shore (which is always worthwhile) and take note of the squirrels you see. Familiarize yourself with the characteristics of both Delmarva fox squirrels and gray squirrels, so that when you see a Delmarva you will recognize it. Write down the location, date and time, and brief description of the habitat, and send the information to me. It's that simple. Ideally, a copy of a map showing the squirrel's location is preferred, but a good set of directions will do. My mailing address is Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division, 580 Taylor Avenue E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401. I can also be contacted through the internet at gtherres@dnr.state.md.us.

Thanks and good squirreling!

Bird-Watchers in Winter*by Polly Batchelder,**Tri-County Chapter*

Listen to me, little cat
I thought I knew by how you sat
That you had something on your
mind—

An expedition of some kind?

But you're intent on higher things,
Those little creatures that have wings
To guide their movements to and fro
Twixt tree and feeder in the snow.

Safe inside the window glass
You watch the hungry eaters pass.
I stand behind you watching too,
But I don't lick my chops like you.

Chapter Chatter*(continued from page 1, column 3)*

World War II as "Ann of Iowa" (Goplerude was too difficult to pronounce.) entertaining thousands of troops throughout Europe and in North Africa. For the rest of her life she was invited, all expenses paid, to the annual reunion of WWII GIs. After the War, the Red Cross and Hearst newspapers recruited her to sing in VA hospitals. She again entertained troops abroad during the Korean War and once gave a solo concert at Washington's Constitution Hall. She picked up graduate degrees in counseling, psychology, and international affairs and worked with AID in Washington until her retirement in 1985. Each year Ann and her sister, Dr. Jane Goplerud, made a pilgrimage to the Eastern Shore to see the Snow Geese. Lydia Schindler of Montgomery writes, "now, when we see those Snow Geese, we will remember 'Ann of Iowa.'"

Allegany Tracks C&O Canal Birds — On Saturday, January 22, nineteen Allegany members joined in the C&O Canal Count. The unofficial total was 55 species, down from last years 65. However, there were 37 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a remarkable number, plus 10 Eastern Phoebe, 13 Winter Wrens, 1 hermit Thrush, 1 Red Breasted Nuthatch, 1 adult and 1 immature Bald Eagle, 2 Swamp Sparrows, 1 Purple Finch, and 1 Redhead.

Howard Chapter Sits — Spearheaded by Kurt Schwarz, on October 17, the Howard County Bird Club joined for the first time in the 7th Annual Big Sit! The Big Sit is a project of the New Haven, Connecticut Bird Club in which birders are asked to sit in a 17 ft. circle and count all (and only) birds seen or heard from within its circumference. This year participants sat in 72 circles in 21 states along with circles in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The three nations tallied 343 North American species and 61 European species. In Howard County, thirteen intrepid counters, steadfastly braving occasionally heavy rain, sat within a circle at Centennial Park and counted 46 species including a Sora Rail spotted by Mike Kerwin at the edge of vegetation on one of the islands in the Centennial Lake.

Allegany County Member to Ecuador — Gwen Brewer, a professor at Frostburg State, spent one month in Ecuador guiding two students in an intercession program on Tropical ecology and Conservation. The course is an intercession program in Spanish and Biology sponsored by Salisbury State and Frostburg State Colleges. The group visited high altitude Andean areas, coastal mangroves, cloud forests, and Amazon rainforests. They saw 160 species including: an anaconda eating a Hoatzin (a prehistoric-looking bird, per Gwen), heard Crested Owls and Nocturnal Curassow, and saw several macaw and parrot species. They also spotted a few North American migrants: Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Spotted Sandpiper. They saw several hummingbirds including the Shining Sunbeam and found a Ruddy Pigeon nest with two checks. Gwen is researching the Andean Teal which is related to our Green Winged Teal. Gwen reports there is growth in ecotourism activities in the region.

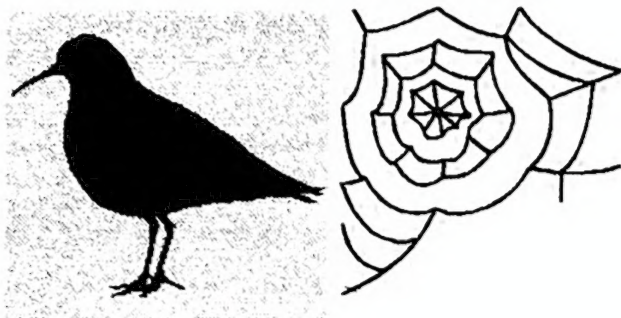
Kent Chapter Members on TV — Maryland Public Television featured a segment of the Outdoors Maryland show on Thursday, December 9 that was filmed at the Birdbanding Station in Queen Anne's County. The segment features Kent chapter member, Jim Gruber, who runs the station. Jim was a Junior Member of the Kent Chapter and learned to band with Dorothy Mendinhall at "Damsite" in Tolchester. The banding station was relocated to Queen Anne's County a few years ago on land loaned for that purpose. Kent members support the station and members Helga Orrick, Bill Snyder, and Trish Gruber regularly help with the banding.

Howard Chapter Loses a Former Member — Lois Carlton died January 15 in Massachusetts at the age of 78. Lois was an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the Howard Bird Club, although she could never be termed a "birder." She simply loved the company of birders and cherished her birding friends. She often went on bird walks and even on western guided bird tours, but she only made the effort to find and count "quality" birds on her life-list. Quality birds to Lois were those individuals that were easy to locate, fairly unusual, and posing in National Geographic fashion. Lois had a Ph.D. in Botany. She had been a colonel in the WACS during World War II and she retired as a Dean from the Baltimore Community College. She had a wonderful, explosive laugh and she unleashed it often. She was particularly amused by the ironies of politics and contemporary life. The Chapter is remembering her by dedicating a mounted bird specimen to Lois — a quality bird, of course.

Barn Owl Project by Harford County — The Harford Chapter is kicking off an ambitious Barn Owl Research and Conservation project with a small scale pilot study. Nest boxes will be placed in barns and unused silos where the habitat is suitable to support this declining species. Barn owls readily use man-made nest boxes and similar owl studies have been conducted throughout the US with great success. Randy Robertson is chairing a merry band of wood workers who have been assembling the nest boxes scheduled to be in place by the end of February. Martha Webb, project chairman, can be reached at 410-939-3537 or

(continued on page 21, column 1)

Birds on the Web



Welcome back! During this issue, we'll continue our tour of the MOS State Web Site. If you want to follow along as you read this, then first point your browser to:

<http://www.MDBirds.org/>

Right away you should notice a new button that was not available during the first part of our tour. This is the icon for the new MOS Nature Store. The sign graphic is a button you can click to take you directly to the store. We hope you will explore the books and other items our distributor has compiled for you. You will find just about every major birding monograph and items such as feeders, jewelry and even B & L binoculars. Prices are very competitive and each sale will help support an MOS program. In the near future we hope to offer you MOS logo items and publications. So, next time you're online check out this convenient resource.

Back to our tour. Last time we skipped over the navigation buttons at the upper left of the home page. Each of these represents another area of the website. Many people do not realize how big the MOS State Site is until they have actively investigated each of these sections. Click on the first button, *About Us*. This takes you to the page that tells our site users all about MOS. Separate sections accessible from this page give an overview of our programs and policies, list officers and committee chairs, introduce our chapters, and explain how to join MOS. We have also included a bibliography of monographs and some serials written by present or former MOS members. Now click on the MOS State Web Site Banner at the top of the page. It will take you back to the main page. This banner will always return you to the main page and is a quick and easy way to navigate.

Next, click on the *Activities* button. This portion of the site presents each of our programs in detail, with the exception of the MD/DC Records Committee and Publications, each of which has its own section. There are separate pages for the state field trip and meeting schedule, the sanctuary program, the scholarship competition and research grant program, the annual conference and pins, and the World Series of Birding. The conference page is a general introduction to our annual fete and includes many graphics of former pin designs. Each year the new design proudly takes its place on the page. You will also want to explore the sanctuary section for maps and information about each of our current properties. And for those of you who need more formal information about our organization to share with local

Navigating the MOS State Web Site — Part II by Fran Saunders

media or other interested parties, all of our more recent press releases are also archived here for your reference.

Instead of going back to the main page, we're going to navigate by using the buttons on the sub-indexes. If you have been wandering around the *Activities* section, use your back button to get back to the sub-index and click on the *Chapters* button. You will likely recognize this page from the *About Us* section. This is a fast way to quickly move to the chapter areas. Clicking on a chapter name in the table will take you to that chapter's officer list and membership information page. Links for chapters that have their own web sites are listed on the main chapter page. A chapter's own web site is also reachable from the graphic at the bottom of the membership information page for that chapter. A third way to reach chapter web sites is via the links page we looked at in Part I.

For now let's return to the main page and click on the *Member's Corner* button. Here is where you will find materials useful to Committee Chairs and members alike. Mostly, we have compiled important manuals, forms and other items of strong interest to the whole membership. This is where you can find an exact copy of your conference brochure if you have misplaced the original, a copy of the list reporting form, and count forms (especially May Count). The most recent revision of our bylaws is available, as is a copy of the *Operations Manual* and the conference pin competition guidelines. If you need to contact, the President, the Executive Secretary, the Treasurer or the Records Committee, direct email links are provided here for your convenience. Notes from committee chairs and updated information about the conference will also be available from this section.

The last section we're going to look at today is the *Publications Section*. Each of our publications has its own page. The publication is described and users are told how they can order their own copy. Issues of *The Yellowthroat*, other than the most current, are available for downloading or viewing online. We also provide a complete copy of the historical first edition of the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*, which was published in 1968 and an index for the latest and third edition, which you may print out and paste inside your own copy. Although *Maryland Birdlife* is not reproduced online, the table of contents of the latest available issue is provided. Other publications highlighted are the *Field Checklist* and the *Atlas*.

Had enough for the day? We still have four sections to review and a new one to introduce. Until then, enjoy the surf!

Wildlife Calls.....Will you answer?

by Edith Thompson, MD Dep't. of Natural Resources



The Conservation Connection

The Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) Coalition will host a 2-day wildlife summit on Capitol Hill to promote much needed policy to provide long-term, consistent funding for state fish and wildlife conservation and related programs. The summit will send one loud, clear message to Congress: wildlife conservation funding must pass in 2000! With the House planning to have a final vote this spring on a key bill that would provide such funds and with the Senate following in short suit, the summit is planned to raise the roof in answer to the question, "Wildlife Calls.....Will you answer?" to help make fish and wildlife funds a reality. Plan to join other TWW supporters at the summit, March 1, on Capitol Hill! You could have breakfast with Members and Congressional staff who have authored and negotiated current legislation supporting the TWW concept! You could also join your state TWW delegation in meetings with Congressmen, Senators and staff from your state, to discuss TWW issues in depth. On the evening of March 1, join your fellow TWW supporters in Congress and throughout the nation in a festive reception, which will include live animal displays and some of the best wildlife calls in the country!

During their meetings will Congressmen, Senators, and their staff, delegations of Teaming With Wildlife supporters from across the nation will discuss the growing conservation needs of fish and wildlife, as well as the growing public interest in wildlife-associated education and recreation. In the House, TWW delegates will focus on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). In the Senate, two bills command attention: the Senate version of CARA and Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000. Both bills provide long-term, consistent funding for state fish and wildlife programs.

The TWW Coalition/Steering Committee strongly supports the wildlife conservation principles of Title III in the House version of CARA because it:

- Fulfills much of state fish and wildlife needs, which are estimated at \$1 billion annually

- Reinvests OCS revenue in state fish and wildlife programs

- Helps states prevent species from becoming threatened and endangered

- Allocates funding for important wildlife conservation, education and wildlife-related recreation

- Provides for public participation in program funding decisions

While the TWW Coalition/Steering Committee supports the concepts of CARA and the provision for funding of state fish and wildlife programs in Title III, many members feel that the bill could be improved. For example, specific language defining the planning process as a requirement of state eligibility for funds was left out of the final bill. However, the TWW Coalition/Steering Committee remains committed to supporting the passage of a bill that provides the funding they seek and will continue to work with Congress on CARA in the House and the two Senate bills.

The Summit will begin Tuesday, February 29 with a reception for TWW supporters to meet one another and to learn about the summit's lobbying strategies, as well as the latest related news from Congress. A lobby technique and training workshop will also be held on February 29 for those who plan to meet with their state House and Senate Representatives on March 1. After the main events on March 1, meetings with Members, and a reception in the Rayburn Cafeteria, a meeting with White House environmental staff is planned for March 2.

Remember, your support is needed to ensure that fish and wildlife, especially at the state and local level, receive consistent and adequate funding. Your unfailing efforts to date have brought this issue to the forefront in Congress, with a bill that has passed through committee in the House and will soon be voted on the House floor. The Senate needs encouragement to bring a bill to their Energy and Natural Resources Committee, so that a bill similar to CARA in the House can be brought to the Senate floor this spring. Finally, the President must sign all new bills. Be sure to include President Clinton in your correspondence about the importance of long-term, consistent funding for state fish and wildlife programs.



Sanctuary Committee Report

by Dotty Mumford

There are two workday weekends scheduled this Spring:

Irish Grove Workday/Weekend, April 1-2, 2000 — There are several ongoing projects at this sanctuary such as trail maintenance and repairs to the buildings. Every year a little progress is made in improving the trails and buildings. Last year's hurricane Floyd set us back some but we hope to get caught up this year.

Carey Run Workday/Weekend, April 29-30, 2000 — Work will continue on the project to remove the autumn olive in the fields. Chain saws are needed for this project.

As usual, volunteers are needed to help at these workday/weekends. The actual workday is on the Saturday of the weekend, but volunteers are encouraged to spend the night to enjoy the fellowship and birding that occur after the work is done. There is no overnight fee charged for volunteers. Lunch and dinner are provided at Irish Grove and a mid-day dinner is served at Carey Run.

If you can volunteer for Irish Grove, please call Sue Ricciardi at 410-647-9513. For Carey Run, call Charlotte Folk at 301-689-6587.

First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry (The Fort McHenry Wetlands Avian Monitoring Project)

by Martha Waugh

The Baltimore Bird Club is being challenged by the National Aquarium's conservation department and the staff at Fort McHenry to assist in enhancing the Fort's wetland area. Since the early 80's when the Fort McHenry/Harbor Tunnel was built, there has been an artificially constructed wetland on the fort's shoreline, built to compensate for the destruction of natural wetlands. The Aquarium and the Fort have joined forces to focus attention on this area: removing the trash periodically, spraying to control the phragmites, and considering strategies to attract birds and other wildlife. The Baltimore Bird Club has been asked to conduct a bird study of the area, teach volunteers bird identification, and suggest ways to improve the wetlands area.

The Club is sponsoring opportunities for you to assist in this survey by monitoring bird activity. Birders are invited to sit at the fort on the first Wednesday of every month from February through August at the Fort McHenry wetland overlook. Claudia Wilds, in her guide "Finding Birds in the National Capital Area", has described Fort McHenry as a "migrant trap." That's good news for birders!

If you're interested in participating in a different kind of birding experience - come on over! The Wednesday counts will last from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Participants will tally all birds that pass by, over, or through the marsh. You may attend all or just a part of any of the "sits." PLEASE BRING A PAPER AND PENCIL TO BE USED AS A TALLY SHEET. You will be recording: number of species, location of bird (the marsh is divided into numbered quads which are displayed on posts), behavior such as - circling, bathing, preening, courtship display, harassing, resting, feeding, vocalization, courtship displays. There will be someone present to assist you.

Directions to Fort McHenry: south on St. Paul Street / Light Street, then east on Fort Avenue to the fort. The wetlands are to the right, immediately inside the entrance, with a wide, level asphalt path leading to the site.

Questions? Contact either coordinator: Gail Frantz (410)833-7135 guineabird@aol.com or Carol Schreter (410)664-5151.

Dates are: March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2

Bird Studies at Old Cape May Info Wanted

by Sandy Sherman

In October 1937, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club published **Bird Studies at Old Cape May**, the seminal work by Witmer Stone, a club founder and former director of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Fourteen hundred sets of the two-volume work were printed; each set's number can be found on the last page of Volume II.

We at DVOC remain proud of this pioneering work and are interested in locating all remaining copies of the original version for research purposes. (Dover Publications produced a paperback reprint in 1965. We do not need information on this edition.) The club is not involved in buying or selling these books; it does not intend to use the results of this survey for any commercial purposes or to reveal names of individuals without their permission.

DVOC asks that anyone owning a copy of **Bird Studies at Old Cape May** provide the following information:

- The name of the owner or institution (anonymity will be respected), location and, importantly, the number in the back of Volume II.

- How long you have owned the copy and what condition it is in.
- How you obtained it.
- Any further pertinent information, such as whether the copy is signed by Stone, etc.

The results of this survey will be published in *Cassinia*, DVOC's journal. Please share this notice with any individuals or organizations that might have knowledge of the whereabouts of this beloved book.

Responses may be sent to Sandra L. Sherman, editor, *Cassinia*, DVOC, c/o Bird Department, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th St. and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103. E-mail: paavocet@aol.com.

Thanks for your efforts!

Nominees for MOS State Office, 2000-2001

by David Harvey

As required by the MOS By Laws, here are the nominees selected by the MOS Nominating Committee for State-level offices within the MOS for the period from September 1, 2000 through August 31, 2001. Other names may be placed in nomination at the Annual Meeting with the permission of the potential nominee. Voting for these offices will take place during the Annual Meeting of the MOS on Saturday, May 20, 2000 in Hagerstown, MD.

President:	Karen Morley
Vice-President:	Paul Zucker
Secretary:	Kathy Neugebauer
Treasurer:	Shiras Guion

Preliminary Summary of Data Analysis for Breeding Bird Counts at C&O Canal National Historical Park 1995 and 1998

Prepared for the National Park Service

by Dr. J. Edward Gates, Univ. of MD Center for Environmental Science

In June 1995 and 1998, volunteer observers counted breeding birds at 554 points spaced 1/3-mi. (0.54 km) apart along a 184.33-mi. (296.65-km) section of C & O Canal National Historic Park towpath that parallels the Potomac River from Georgetown in Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland. Most of the 5-min., unlimited-radius point counts were completed between 6:00 and 8:30 AM. Counts were not done during high winds or heavy rain. At each point, observers also noted the presence or absence of different cover types. Bird count data were analyzed using locally weighted regression analysis (lowess). Different landscape metrics were also calculated within 3-km squares centered along the towpath using land use/land cover data developed from landsat imagery. These landscape metrics are being related to bird species abundance along the length of the canal towpath.

Preliminary analysis indicates that patterns of abundance in 1995 and 1998 are similar for many species. Species abundance is in response to particular environmental factors that do not change much over time. Some species appear to be responding to both physiogra-

phy and land use/land cover, whereas others may be responding to just land use/land cover differences. Many forest interior species are least abundant at either end of the towpath and in the mid-section that includes the Frederick and Hagerstown valleys. This pattern of abundance appears related to a higher proportion of forest cover in those areas, particularly in western Maryland. However, the distribution patterns of forest interior species are not just related to forest cover, but include other factors such as physiography or the occurrence of streams. For example, the Acadian Flycatcher is most abundant east of mile marker 100, whereas the Worm-eating Warbler exhibits the opposite trend. Several field and scrub birds, e.g., the American Goldfinch and Eastern Towhee, are most abundant in the Hagerstown Valley. The Black-capped Chickadee is found in forested areas west of Hancock, Maryland; while the Carolina Chickadee is found primarily to the east. Some species, e.g., the Chimney Swift, appear to be positively associated with urban development, and are particularly abundant near the urban centers at either end of the towpath.

Invasive Non-Native Plants in the Landscape: Helpful or Harmful to Birds?

by Carol Jelich

We've all seen the decline in songbird populations over the years. It's well-documented, and the reasons seem obvious: loss of habitat to development, forest fragmentation and clear-cutting, predation by domestic animals, brood parasitism by cowbirds. But a recent study shows a possible link between songbird decline and another factor: the proliferation of non-native, or exotic, plants in natural areas.

Perhaps, on your bird walks, you've noticed the increase in exotic plants along the edges of forests and marshes in our region. Japanese honeysuckle and Asian bittersweet envelope the hedgerow. Japanese stiltgrass and garlic mustard grow underfoot. Phragmites thrive in the wetlands. English ivy covers the trees, eventually pulling them down. Bush honeysuckle, Russian olive, and barberry sprout up in field and forest. And those maples that stayed green well into the fall? Norway maple, establishing stands deep in the forest.

As these non-native plants invade an area, they crowd out the natives plants, upon which many songbirds and other wildlife depend.

We know that some birds use the non-natives for food, shelter, and nesting. In fact, some of these plants were imported and recommended at one time specifically for erosion control, windbreaks, and wildlife habitats. So why are they a problem now?

Though non-natives are used by opportunistic species, there are some bird species, as well as butterflies and other wildlife, that rely on native plants for their survival. They will only be attracted to, nest in, or feed from, particular plants. Also, exotic plants may not provide the

correct amount of nutrients and fat at appropriate times throughout the year for native birds, as native plants do. When native plants are overtaken by monocultures of invasive non-natives and disappear, so does wildlife diversity.

An additional concern came to light in a recent study published by Kenneth Schmidt and Christopher Whelan: "Songbird Decline May be Linked to Non-Native Shrubs." (*Conservation Biology* 13(6), Dec 1999, 1502-1506.) According to a summary of the study,

"Schmidt and Whelan studied nest predation of American robins and wood thrushes in a 500-acre deciduous woodland preserve near Chicago for six years. There, non-native shrubs have largely replaced the native shrubs where the songbirds once nested: [bush] honeysuckle has replaced arrowwood and buckthorn has replaced hawthorn.

"Schmidt and Whelan found that predation of both robin and thrush nests was higher in the non-native shrubs than in the native shrubs and trees. The researchers suggest that this increase is partly due to physical differences between the native and non-native shrubs. Buckthorn lacks hawthorn's sharp thorns, which could deter mammalian predators. Honeysuckle has sturdier branches, which could both help predators climb higher and support nests closer to the ground, where they are more accessible to predators.

"Wood thrushes built about half their nests in exotic shrubs. During the study period, the number of robins nesting in honeysuckle increased six-fold (from 5% to more than 30%). The researchers

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Pest Plants

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suggest that honeysuckle is an attractive nesting site because it sometimes leaves out before the native shrubs."

More study will document whether this problem is affecting other species of birds. In the meantime, if you want to help address this potential problem, there are some things you can do.

Start in your own backyard. Many of the plants that are invasive in natural areas are common landscape plants. The features that make them popular with home gardeners —hardy, fast growing, easily spread — are exactly what cause them to become pests when they escape the garden into natural areas. For a good overview of which plants are the biggest problem in our area, and the best way to control them, get a copy of "Control of Invasive Non-Native Plants: A Guide for Gardeners and Homeowners in the Mid-Atlantic Region." Copies are available from the Maryland Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914.... You can also email mnps@geocities.com, or download a copy from their web site, www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/2996.

Volunteer at a local park. Many parks in our region are undertaking programs to eradicate the worst invasive non-native plants from their natural areas, and volunteers are an important component of these programs. For example, the Maryland Native Plant Society sponsors conservation stewardship projects at Patapsco State Park on the third Saturday of most months. Contact Louisa Thompson at louisathompson@erols.com. MNPS, in conjunction with the Sierra Club, has also been clearing invasives from the Ruth Swann Park in Charles County on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Marc

Imlay at 301-283-0808. MNPS also will provide technical support if you want to initiate a conservation project at a natural area near you.

Join the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council. If you manage a natural area, or are interested in helping, the newly-formed MA-EPPC provides a forum for information exchange throughout the region. Contact me for further information (see below).

Observe and report. More study is needed to document the effects of invasive non-natives on songbirds and other wildlife. As birders, you are in a position to notice these effects. In the areas you have been birding over time, which bird populations are diminishing? What invasive non-native plants are more evident? Document and report your observations to MNPS or MA-EPPC.

Many non-native plants are attractive and well-behaved, and can be enjoyed in our gardens. If we take the time to learn more about which non-native plants are invasive, and if we work to control them in our yards and neighborhoods, we each can contribute to the restoration of our natural areas and even, perhaps, to an increase in songbird populations.

Carol Jelich is a member of the Anne Arundel Bird Club, the Invasive Exotic Plants Committee of the Maryland Native Plant Society, and the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council. She welcomes your questions or comments at jrj_csj@mindspring.com or 410 757-8158.



MOS 2000 and Beyond

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searching for a qualified instructor. If you or someone you know would fill this bill, please let me know. You can reach me at RaptorsRule@juno.com or 301-490-9318. Karen will also be the Co-host for this year's Conference tally at lunch on Sunday. The Conference Planning Committee is looking forward to greeting you in Hagerstown. They will be wearing a blue ribbon on their name badges. If you see someone wearing the ribbon, introduce yourself to them and thank them for serving to bring you the Conference.

Future Statewide Conferences

The Conference Committee is always working to improve your experience at the Conference and we will continue to do this in the future, but we can only do this with your help. Your comments and suggestions and evaluations have helped us fine tune this annual event over the past several years. As Statewide Conference Chairman I am prepared to accept your comments, suggestions and criticism. Ultimately I am responsible for what happens regarding the Conference, and I readily accept that responsibility. As my mentor and past Conference Chairman Lou DeMouy warned me that I must be prepared to take credit and blame for things that happen even if I had

nothing to do with them or had no control over them happening. It just comes with the territory. If you have any comments or suggestions, please call me, e-mail me or talk to me in person. I have spoken with a number of you and asked your advice over the past few months and really appreciate your input.

Currently I am working with Conference Centers around the State to find a place for the 2001 Conference and we are due to go back to the Shore. As recent tradition goes, it will require a joint effort between two Chapters to co host the event. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity and invite you to serve on the Conference Committee. Over the next several months and next year, I plan to visit as many of the Chapters as time allows me to. I will be bringing ideas and promoting the Conference at the Chapter level. My goal is to eventually have all Chapters co host a Conference. If your Chapter has not helped host one, please think about it and I will talk to you in person at your monthly meeting. The more involvement we get from you the better the Conference will be. With that in mind, I look forward to meeting and serving with you on the Conference Planning Committee in the years to come.

The MOS Dateline

March 2000 through February 2001

March

- 11 State Board Meeting, Easton, MD
- 15 Deadline to submit Winter (December to February) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
- 25 Deadline for May / Jun / Jul / Aug Meeting / Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

April

- 1 Deadline for May / Jun *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
- 1-2 Irish Grove Spring Work Weekend
- 29-30 Carey Run Spring Work Weekend

May

- 13 May Count
- 13 2000 World Series of Birding (Support your Yellowthroats!)
- 19-21 Annual MOS Conference
- 15 Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Norm Saunders
- 20 Chapter & Committee Annual Reports due to MOS President

June

- 1 MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
- 10 State Board Meeting, Annapolis, MD
- 15 Deadline to submit Spring (March to May) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

July

- 25 Deadline for Sept / Oct / Nov Meeting / Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

August

- 1 Deadline for Sept / Oct *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
- 5 Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
- 15 Deadline to submit Summer (June & July) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

September

- 1 Membership year commences—renew now!
- TBA State Board Meeting, Location TBA
- 25 Deadline for Nov / Dec / Jan Meeting / Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

October

- 1 Deadline for Nov / Dec *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
- 28-29 Irish Grove Fall Work Weekend

November

- 15 Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
- 25 Deadline for Jan / Feb / Mar Meeting / Field Trip Schedule Submission to / Les Eastman

December

- 1 Deadline for Jan / Feb *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
- 1 MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
- TBA State Board Meeting, Location TBA
- 15 Deadline to submit Fall (August to November) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
- 16 Christmas Count Season Begins
- 31 Conference Pin Contest Entries Due
- 31 Christmas Count Season Ends

January

- 15 Mid-Winter Count Season Begins
- 25 Deadline for Mar / Apr / May Meeting / Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
- 31 Scholarship Applications Due to Jean Fry

February

- 1 Deadline for Mar / Apr *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
- 1 State MOS Budget Submissions Due to Budget Chairman
- 15 Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
- 15 Mid-Winter Count Season Ends
- TBA MD / DC Records Committee Annual Meeting

MOS Activities — March/May 2000

Wednesday, March 1

MEETING. Carroll. "Eastern Australia and Papua New Guinea" by Dave Harvey. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, March 2

MEETING. Frederick. Stauffer Miller brings us up to date on the Miller's excursions far afield. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School in the Music Room.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. McKee-Beshers WMA, ½ or full day. Wintering landbirds, some waterfowl. Part I: Meet at 7 a.m. at Seneca parking lot (end of Riley's Lock Rd.). Bird until around 1:30 p.m., then lunch in Poolesville. Part II: Bird from 3 p.m. until dark. Meet at 3 p.m. at Hughes Hollow Parking lot off River Rd. We'll bird the Hollow and Sycamore Landing, looking for landbirds, Barred Owl and wintering ducks, then (we hope!) finish with a Woodcock display at dusk. Bring folding chair if you want and 'scope to scan river. Reservations required for full or half day. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Green, at (301) 208-2393.

Friday, March 3

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. Anne Arundel. "MOS Records Committee" by Sue Ricciardi and Paul O'Brien. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

MEETING. Harford. Topic TBA. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-692-9305.

Saturday, March 4

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Conowingo Dam for gulls, eagles. TURKEY POINT for wintering woodland birds and ducks. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse (2nd Street just west of College Terrace). For further information, contact Marsha Balestri at 301-473-5098.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. A one-half day jaunt to Baltimore City's water supply in search of ducks and winter finches. Loch Raven hosts many species of duck, including Red-head, Ring-necked, and American Wigeon. In addition, the pines surrounding the reservoir often attract Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Pine Warblers. Leader Mark Johnson will leave from Youth's Benefit Elementary School at 7:30 a.m., and can be reached at 410-692-5978.

Sunday, March 5

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. Waterfowl, land birds. Meet at the visitor center at 8:00 a.m. Bring scope and snacks. For further information, contact the leader, Rob Gibbs, at 301-253-6903.

Tuesday, March 7

ANNUAL MEETING. Baltimore. "Midway Island, One of the Newest Birding Destinations" by Daphne Gemmill. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Wednesday, March 8

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Oodles Of Timberdoodles. First of a three week series of Woodcock Watches. All three Oodles of Timberdoodles watches will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Wal-Mart parking lot on Rt. 40, just south (west) of Aberdeen. For more information, contact coordinator Barbara Meserve at 410-877-7331.

Thursday, March 9

MEETING. Howard. "A Seasonal Progression of Wildflowers," by Bob Solem. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Mike Kerwin at 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Talbot. "Birds of the Galapagos with Notes on Bird Photography" by Kent Minichiello. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Crestar Bank basement meeting room, Goldsboro and Harrison Streets in Easton.

Friday, March 10

MEETING. Montgomery. Annual Social. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or by email at linnet@erols.com.

Saturday, March 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and early migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Owling at Hugg-Thomas WMA. Night trip to hear and possibly see Barred, Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owl. Meet 8:00 p.m. at the parking lot on Forsythe Road. For more information, contact Mark Hoffman at 410-549-3598.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Waterfowl - Bombay Hook NWR. Meet at 7:00 am at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. Full Day. For further information, contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Northhampton County, VA. For more information contact the leaders Don and Carol Broderick, at 410-742-8920.

Sunday, March 12

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Elk Neck SP / Turkey Point. Birders are likely to encounter Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Coordinator Carol Nemeth can be contacted at 410-939-1485. Plan to meet in the Havre de Grace Weis parking lot (Rt. 40) at 7:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Blackwater NWR. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leaders, Levin Willey or Roger Stone at 410-770-9636.

Tuesday, March 14

MEETING. Kent. "Neotropical Bird Migration" by Chan Robbins. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown. For more information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

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Wednesday, March 15

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Oodles Of Timberdoodles. Week two! Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Wal-Mart parking lot on Rt. 40, just south (west) of Aberdeen. For more information, contact coordinator Barbara Meserve at 410-877-7331.

Thursday, March 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Woodcock at Cromwell Valley Park. Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) at 6:30 p.m. in this first of three Thursday evening walks in search of Woodcock, possible Great Horned Owl, and other delights. For further information, call Georgia McDonald at 410-821-6956.

Saturday, March 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Middle Creek WMA. Visit this major gathering place for Snow Geese and other waterfowl north of Lancaster PA. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds in its visitor center. Note: Trip may end up going elsewhere if Middle Creek's reservoir is frozen over. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410922-5103 or by e-mail at tanager@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Sandy Point State Park and environs for Franklin's Gull, Snow Bunting and other winter visitors. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse (2nd Street just west of College Terrace). For further information, contact Lois Kauffman at 301-845-6690.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Guyton Road / Fallston. Walk along the scenic Gunpowder River in search of forest birds. This woodpecker haven should attract Hairy, Red-bellied, and Pileated Woodpeckers, in addition to Brown Creeper and Red-shouldered Hawk. Plan to meet in the Youth's Benefit Elementary School parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Coordinator Russ Kovach can be contacted evenings at 410-679-0535.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Jug Bay. (Joint trip with ANS) Highlights may include Rusty Blackbird, migrating Common Snipe and courtship display of Osprey. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Reservations required. For further information and driving instructions, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994.

Sunday, March 19

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Anne Arundel County. Wintering woodland birds and waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Wafi Rains, at 410-573-0352.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. First in a series of casual self-guided spring walks at one of Baltimore's birding hot spots.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at the National Zoo. You might not be able to count these on your Maryland list, but exotic species abound, and just as much fun as any of our favorite birding spots! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride at Rt. 32 and I-70. For more information, contact the leader, Bob Ringler, at 410-549-6031.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Oxford and vicinity. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Les Coble, at 410-820-6165.

Tuesday, March 21

MEETING. Allegany. Bruce Taliaferro and Vicki Teets will talk about compiling their book, Mammals of Western Maryland. 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building, 108 Washington St., Cumberland. For further information, contact Chuck Hager at 301-689-5344.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Two or three hours and miles of walking, early departure possible. Some uneven terrain and steep dikes optional at far end. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons possible after March. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Adelaide Rackemann, at 410-823-4709.

Wednesday, March 22

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Oodles Of Timberdoodles. Week three! Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Wal-Mart parking lot on Rt. 40, just south (west) of Aberdeen. For more information, contact coordinator Barbara Meserve at 410-877-7331.

Thursday, March 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Woodcock at Cromwell Valley Park. Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) at 6:30 p.m. in this second of three Thursday evening walks in search of Woodcock, possible Great Horned Owl, and other delights. For further information, call Georgia McDonald at 410-821-6956.

Saturday, March 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and early migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Edgewood Area, APG. Likely to be seen on this day are Lesser Scaup, Pine Warbler, and possibly even an Osprey. In the past Rusty Blackbirds have been observed at Edgewood APG as well. Leader Les Eastman's number is 410-734-6969. Plans to meet at the APG gate, south end of Maryland route 24 at 8:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Snively Trail and Antietam Battlefield. Meet at the Park & Ride next to Motor Vehicles Administration Bldg. off Rt. 65 at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contract the leader, Bob Keedy, at 301-733-7708.

Sunday, March 26

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Baltimore Zoo, Baltimore County for late winter birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located on the corner of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Doug Forsell, at 410-626-8486.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Centennial Lake, Columbia. Morning walk for early waterfowl and other early migrants and lingering winter residents. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the tennis courts at Centennial Lake. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander, at 410-381-5574.

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FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Easton Wastewater Treatment Facility. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Dick Kleen, at 410-745-5482.

Monday, March 27

MEETING. Tri-County. "Hart-Miller Island: A Brief History Through Time (1600 to 2000)" a slide presentation by Gene Scarpulla. This is our annual "pot luck" dinner. Meet at the Wicomico Presbyterian Church 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Allen Deward, at 410-352-5590.

Tuesday, March 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Washington. This month's program will be "Night Sounds" by Kevin Dodge. "Night Sounds" is a story telling program in which Kevin makes all the sounds of the night woods. 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. For further information contract Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Thursday, March 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Woodcock at Cromwell Valley Park. Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) at 6:30 p.m. in this third of three Thursday evening walks in search of Woodcock, possible Great Horned Owl, and other delights. For further information, call Georgia McDonald at 410-821-6956.

Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2

Irish Grove Work-n-Bird Join MOS members from throughout the state in spring cleaning the house and grounds at our sanctuary near Crisfield on the lower Eastern Shore. Time-outs for birding the marsh and woods. Sedge Wren possible. Overnight accommodations available.

April

FIELD TRIP. Allegany will have additional field trips in April to the C and O Canal, Cumberland area. For further information, contact Gwen Brewer at 301-689-1150.

Saturday, April 1

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Garrett County ponds. Meet at 8 a.m. at Parkside School in LaVale. For further information, contact the leader: Roy Brown, at 301-724-7769.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Hughes Hollow, McKee-Beshers for whatever is in the marshes, woods and along the river. Several years ago, there was a saw-whet owl. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse (2nd Street just west of College Terrace). For further information, contact Mike Welch at 301-874-5828.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Nottingham County Park, PA. Serpentine barrens in Lancaster County, PA. This rare habitat should attract several unusual bird species, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cooper's Hawk, and Palm Warbler. Meet leader Mark Johnson at the Conowingo Dam Visitor's Center (Rt. 1, where the pool is!) at 7:30 a.m. For more information on this half-day trip, Mark can be contacted at 410-692-5978.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bird-Pedal. Leisurely ride with frequent stops for birding along the beautiful Capital Crescent Trail, from Massachusetts Avenue to the Potomac River in Georgetown. 10 miles round trip on smooth, level surface. Rest and view river species at Washington Canoe Club. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, David Winer, at 301-229-8963.

Sunday, April 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds; Bald Eagle, Bluebirds, Fox Sparrow possible. Telescopes useful. Two-mile level walk. Beginners welcome. Meet 8:30 a.m. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Kye Jenkins, at 410-628-7257.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Trappe and vicinity. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Margie Steffens, at 410-745-6137.

Tuesday, April 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Patsy Perlman, at 410-466-3998.

MEETING. Baltimore. "The Wood Thrush" by Kim Derrickson. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Wednesday, April 5

MEETING. Carroll. "Soldiers Delight" by Jen Cline. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, April 6

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Program. "Bird Research & Education in Central America" by Chan Robbins. 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Join the Natural History Society folks as they look for birds, wildflowers, etc. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Frederick. William R. Stott, Jr. will enthral us with the "Ice, Wind, Water and Flight: Birds of the Antarctic". He recounts his numerous visits there. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School in the Music Room.

Saturday, April 8

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Oregon Ridge. Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people on an early spring walk through varied habitats for a mix of resident and early migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oregon Ridge Nature Center parking lot. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Birding at University of Maryland's Central Farm. A moderate to difficult walk for grassland birds. Don't forget your hiking boots as we look for a variety of sparrows. Our guest trip leader is Bonnie Ott from the Howard County Bird Club. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Park & Ride at Rt. 32 & I-70. For more information, call Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

MD MAY COUNT 2000: HABITATS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Welcome to May Count 2000! Thank you for participating in the Eighth Annual North American Migration Count, which will be held in the MD-DC area on Saturday, May 13th. You will be joined in this effort by birders in the Lower 48 states, Alaska, and neighboring countries.

Each county and the District of Columbia has a coordinator (see below). Please contact the appropriate county coordinator at least one week in advance of the count. Help is especially needed in the Lower Eastern Shore counties, where birding is a delight. Your coordinator will work with you to help you understand how to complete the form and any documentation you may need to provide.

The following list of species are those you would expect to find in Maryland during spring migration. Some species require written details; those are noted with asterisks. Your county coordinator will provide you with a form for documentation of these species.

Please notice changes made in the order of species to conform to the 7th edition of the AOU checklist- 1998. Bicknell's thrush and shiny cowbird are added. The sharp-tailed sparrow split is included. Changes

in the names of species are footnoted. You no longer need to separate species according to feeder, stationary and night counts. You are asked to report feeder or stationary hours IF THESE ARE THE ONLY ways you spend a significant portion of your day counting.

If you would like to share stories of crazy or interesting things that happen during your count, please send a short write-up with your completed report form. **Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is NO LATER THAN May 27, 2000.**

There is a theme to May Count this year! The theme is to note the changes in land use and habitat that have occurred recently in MD. You are being asked to provide information on what you see in your count area. Completing the **Habitats** form is optional. Feel free to make additional comments. This information will appear as articles in **MD Birdlife**, along with the species totals and list of participants. You will be recognized as the author of your article/comments.

Have a wonderful day and Good Birding! Wanda Cole- Statewide Coordinator

County Coordinators

Allegany: Teresa Simons, PO Box 643, Fort Ashby, WV 26719. 304-298-4972, rtsimons@mindspring.com

Anne Arundel: Dotty Mumford, 1900 Generals's Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-849-8336

Baltimore: Michele Melia, 6103 Pimlico Rd., Baltimore, MD 21209. 410-358-5920

Calvert: Arlene Ripley, 3513 Smithville Rd., Dunkirk, MD, 301-855-2848 or 410-257-6105, aripley@nestbox.com

Caroline: Marianna Nuttle, 106 Ellerslie Ct., Denton, MD 21629, 410-479-2644

Carroll: Bob Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg, MD 21784, 410-549-6031, ringler@qis.net

Cecil: Parke John, 57 Virginia Ave., Red Point Beach, North East, MD 21901, 410-287-6037 (h) or 410-506-3874 (w), pjohn@wlgore.com

Charles: George Wilmot, 6722 Amherst Rd., Bryans Road, MD 20616, 301-375-8552, qwilmot@radix.net

Dorchester: Henry T. Armistead, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119, 215-248-4120, 74077.3176@compuserve.com

Frederick: Michael Welch, 8619 Burnt Hickory Cir., Frederick, MD 21701, 301-874-5828, mdjvwelch@aol.com

Garrett: Fran Pope, 503 F Street, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550, 301-334-4908, fpope@mail.gcnet.net

Harford: Russell Kovach, 810 Falconer Rd., Joppa, MD 21085, 410-679-0535, nikonf5user@aol.com

Howard: Paul A. Zucker, 12813 Huntsman Way, Potomac, MD 20854, 301-279-7896, Paul.Zucker@jhuapl.edu

Kent: Floyd Parks, 129 Washington Ave., Chestertown, MD 21620, 410-778-3040

Montgomery: Rick Sussman, 17917 Ashton Club Way, Ashton, MD 20861, 301-774-1185 (h) or 301-562-0303 (w), Warblerick@aol.com

Prince George's: Fred Fallon, 1700 Pomona Place, Bowie, MD 20716, 301-249-1518, fwwallon@mnsinc.com

Queen Anne's: Glen Therres, 642 Kimberly Way, Stevensville, MD 21666, 410-643-7422

St. Mary's: Ernest Willoughby, 18335 Hartman Drive, Lexington Park, MD 20653, 301-862-9631, ejwilloughby@aol.com

Somerset: Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801, 410-742-7221, stamps@sea-east.com

Talbot: Les Coble, 9317 High Banks, Easton, MD 21601, 410-820-6165

Washington: Dave Weesner, 6618 Zittlestown Rd., Middletown, MD 21769, 301-432-7718, weezner@aol.com

Wicomico: Charles Vaughn (see Somerset)

Worcester: Allen Deward, 10123 Hammond Rd., Bishopville, MD 21813, 410-352-5590, ratal5@earthlink.net

District of Columbia: Peter Vankevich, 1333 E St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-547-4523 (h) or 202-707-7512 (w), pvank@cais.net

Rarity Sightings Guidelines

Alphabetical List of Participants

(continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Please note: If you see a species that requires written details, please provide as much of the following information as you are able, on as many separate sheets as necessary:

1. Description of Size, Shape and Plumage
 - a. Size relative to other bird species nearby.
 - b. Head shape, patterns, colors; bill length, shape, color
 - c. Eye: color, ring, stripes
 - d. Plumage details: nape, back, rump, wings(upper and under), coverts, tail, throat, chin, breast, belly
 - e. Legs and feet: length, colors, shape.
 - f. Condition: signs of molt or wear. Marked, tagged or banded?
2. Number of birds
3. Sex and age, by plumage or behavior
4. Behavior observed
5. Other Birds Present (if any)
6. Location (place name, county, state, habitat, etc.)
7. Weather/Sky/Observation Conditions
8. Observer Details (optics used, field guides consulted, experience of observer, names of other observers present)

County Compilers only: Send your compilations by June 30, 2000 to Wanda Cole, May Count Coordinator, 29731 Apple Drive, Cordova, MD 21625-2803. E-Mail reports (preferred) should be sent to: wcole@dnr.state.md.us

County: _____

NOTE: Please record zero (0) if no birds were observed for a species.

Red-throated Loon* _____
 Common Loon _____
 Pied-billed Grebe _____
 Horned Grebe _____
 Red-necked Grebe* _____
 Eared Grebe** _____
 Northern Fulmar** _____
 Sooty Shearwater** _____
 Manx Shearwater** _____
 Wilson's Storm-Petrel** _____
 Northern Gannet* _____
 Brown Pelican* _____
 Double-crested Cormorant _____
 Great Cormorant* _____
 Anhinga** _____
 American Bittern _____
 Least Bittern _____
 Great Blue Heron _____
 Great Egret _____
 Snowy Egret _____
 Little Blue Heron _____
 Tricolored Heron _____
 Cattle Egret _____
 Green Heron _____
 Black-crowned Night-Heron _____
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron _____
 night-heron sp. _____
 Glossy Ibis _____
 Black Vulture _____
 Turkey Vulture _____
 Greater White-fronted Goose** _____
 Snow Goose* _____
 Canada Goose _____
 Brant* _____
 Mute Swan _____
 Tundra Swan _____
 Wood Duck _____
 Gadwall _____
 American Wigeon _____
 American Black Duck _____
 Mallard _____
 Blue-winged Teal _____
 Northern Shoveler _____
 Northern Pintail _____
 Green-winged Teal _____
 Canvasback _____
 Redhead* _____
 Ring-necked Duck _____
 Greater Scaup _____
 Lesser Scaup _____
 scaup sp. _____
 Common Eider** _____
 King Eider** _____
 Harlequin Duck** _____
 Oldsquaw _____
 Black Scoter* _____
 Surf Scoter _____
 White-winged Scoter* _____
 scoter sp. _____
 Common Goldeneye _____
 Bufflehead _____
 Hooded Merganser _____
 Common Merganser _____
 Red-breasted Merganser _____
 Ruddy Duck _____
 Osprey _____
 Swallow-tailed Kite** _____
 Bald Eagle, adult _____
 Bald Eagle, immature _____
 Bald Eagle, unknown age _____
 Northern Harrier _____
 Sharp-shinned Hawk _____
 Cooper's Hawk _____
 Northern Goshawk* _____
 Red-shouldered Hawk _____
 Broad-winged Hawk _____
 Red-tailed Hawk _____
 Rough-legged Hawk** _____

buteo sp. _____
 Golden Eagle** _____
 eagle sp. _____
 American Kestrel _____
 Merlin* _____
 Peregrine Falcon* _____
 Chukar* _____
 Ring-necked Pheasant _____
 Ruffed Grouse _____
 Wild Turkey _____
 Northern Bobwhite _____
 Yellow Rail** _____
 Black Rail* _____
 Clapper Rail _____
 King Rail _____
 Virginia Rail _____
 Sora _____
 Common Moorhen _____
 American Coot _____
 Sandhill Crane** _____
 Black-bellied Plover _____
 American Golden-Plover** _____
 Wilson's Plover** _____
 Semipalmated Plover _____
 Piping Plover** _____
 Killdeer _____
 American Oystercatcher _____
 Black-necked Stilt* _____
 American Avocet* _____
 Greater Yellowlegs _____
 Lesser Yellowlegs _____
 Solitary Sandpiper _____
 Willet _____
 Spotted Sandpiper _____
 Upland Sandpiper* _____
 Whimbrel* _____
 Long-billed Curlew** _____
 Hudsonian Godwit** _____
 Marbled Godwit** _____
 Ruddy Turnstone _____
 Red Knot* _____
 Sanderling _____
 Semipalmated Sandpiper _____
 Western Sandpiper** _____
 Least Sandpiper _____
 White-rumped Sandpiper* _____
 Baird's Sandpiper** _____
 Pectoral Sandpiper _____
 Purple Sandpiper** _____
 Dunlin _____
 Curlew Sandpiper** _____
 peep sp. _____
 Stilt Sandpiper* _____
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper** _____
 Ruff** _____
 Short-billed Dowitcher _____
 Long-billed Dowitcher** _____
 dowitcher sp. _____
 Common Snipe _____
 American Woodcock _____
 Wilson's Phalarope* _____
 Red-necked Phalarope* _____
 Red Phalarope** _____
 phalarope sp. _____
 Pomarine Jaeger* _____
 Parasitic Jaeger* _____
 jaeger sp. _____
 Laughing Gull _____
 Franklin's Gull*** _____
 Little Gull*** _____
 Black-headed Gull** _____
 Bonaparte's Gull _____
 Ring-billed Gull _____
 Herring Gull _____
 Thayer's Gull*** _____
 Iceland Gull* _____
 Lesser Black-backed Gull* _____
 Glaucous Gull* _____

Great Black-backed Gull _____
 Sabine's Gull*** _____
 Black-legged Kittiwake** _____
 gull sp. _____
 Gull-billed Tern** _____
 Caspian Tern _____
 Royal Tern _____
 Sandwich Tern*** _____
 Roseate Tern*** _____
 Common Tern _____
 Arctic Tern*** _____
 Forster's Tern _____
 sterna sp. _____
 Least Tern _____
 Black Tern* _____
 Black Skimmer* _____
 Rock Dove _____
 Eurasian Collared-Dove*** _____
 Mourning Dove _____
 Black-billed Cuckoo _____
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo _____
 Barn Owl _____
 Eastern Screech-Owl _____
 Great Horned Owl _____
 Barred Owl _____
 Long-eared Owl* _____
 Short-eared Owl* _____
 Northern Saw-whet Owl* _____
 Common Nighthawk _____
 Chuck-will's-widow _____
 Whip-poor-will _____
 Chimney Swift _____
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird _____
 Rufous Hummingbird** _____
 Belted Kingfisher _____
 Red-headed Woodpecker _____
 Red-bellied Woodpecker _____
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* _____
 Downy Woodpecker _____
 Hairy Woodpecker _____
 Northern Flicker _____
 Pileated Woodpecker _____
 Olive-sided Flycatcher* _____
 Eastern Wood-Pewee _____
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher* _____
 Acadian Flycatcher _____
 Alder Flycatcher* _____
 Willow Flycatcher _____
 Least Flycatcher _____
 empidonax sp. _____
 Eastern Phoebe _____
 Great Crested Flycatcher _____
 Western Kingbird*** _____
 Eastern Kingbird _____
 Loggerhead Shrike* _____
 White-eyed Vireo _____
 Blue-headed Vireo¹ _____
 Yellow-throated Vireo _____
 Warbling Vireo _____
 Philadelphia Vireo* _____
 Red-eyed Vireo _____
 vireo sp. _____
 Blue Jay _____
 American Crow _____
 Fish Crow _____
 crow sp. _____
 Common Raven* _____
 Horned Lark _____
 Purple Martin _____
 Tree Swallow _____
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow _____
 Bank Swallow _____
 Cliff Swallow _____
 Barn Swallow _____
 Carolina Chickadee _____
 Black-capped Chickadee _____
 chickadee sp. _____
 Tufted Titmouse _____

Red-breasted Nuthatch*	
White-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	
Brown Creeper	
Carolina Wren	
Bewick's Wren**	
House Wren	
Winter Wren*	
Sedge Wren**	
Marsh Wren	
wren sp.	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Eastern Bluebird	
Veery	
Gray-cheeked Thrush*	
Bicknell's Thrush*	
Swainson's Thrush	
Hermit Thrush	
Wood Thrush	
American Robin	
Gray Catbird	
Northern Mockingbird	
Brown Thrasher	
European Starling	
American Pipit	
Cedar Waxwing	
Blue-winged Warbler	
Brewster's Warbler*	
Lawrence's Warbler*	
Golden-winged Warbler	
Tennessee Warbler	
Orange-crowned Warbler*	
Nashville Warbler	
Northern Parula	
Yellow Warbler	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Magnolia Warbler	
Cape May Warbler	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Black-throated Green Warbler	
Blackburnian Warbler	
Yellow-throated Warbler	
Pine Warbler	
Prairie Warbler	
Palm Warbler	
Bay-breasted Warbler	
Blackpoll Warbler	
Cerulean Warbler	
Black-and-white Warbler	
American Redstart	
Prothonotary Warbler	
Worm-eating Warbler	
Swainson's Warbler**	
Ovenbird	
Northern Waterthrush	
Louisiana Waterthrush	
Kentucky Warbler	
Connecticut Warbler**	
Mourning Warbler*	
Common Yellowthroat	
Hooded Warbler	
Wilson's Warbler	
Canada Warbler	
Yellow-breasted Chat	
Summer Tanager	
Scarlet Tanager	
Western Tanager**	
Eastern Towhee ²	
Bachman's Sparrow**	
American Tree Sparrow**	
Chipping Sparrow	
Clay-colored Sparrow**	
Field Sparrow	
Vesper Sparrow	
Lark Sparrow**	

Lark Bunting**	
Savannah Sparrow	
Grasshopper Sparrow	
Henslow's Sparrow*	
Salt-marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow*	
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow*	
Seaside Sparrow	
Fox Sparrow*	
Song Sparrow	
Lincoln's Sparrow*	
Swamp Sparrow	
White-throated Sparrow	
Harris's Sparrow**	
White-crowned Sparrow	
Dark-eyed Junco	
Northern Cardinal	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Black-headed Grosbeak**	
Blue Grosbeak	
Lazuli Bunting**	
Indigo Bunting	
Painted Bunting**	
Dickcissel*	
Bobolink	
Red-winged Blackbird	
Eastern Meadowlark	
Yellow-headed Blackbird**	
Rusty Blackbird*	
Common Grackle	
Boat-tailed Grackle	
Brown-headed Cowbird	
Shiny Cowbird*** blackbird sp.	
Orchard Oriole	
Baltimore Oriole	
Purple Finch	
House Finch	
Red Crossbill**	
White-winged Crossbill**	
Common Redpoll**	
Pine Siskin	
American Goldfinch	
Evening Grosbeak	
House Sparrow	
Total species	
Total individuals	

* Need some details
 ** NEED FULL DETAILS!
 *** NEVER REPORTED BEFORE
¹ formerly Solitary Vireo
² formerly Rufous-sided Towhee

Time Start: _____
Time Stop: _____

Hours Owling: _____
Miles Owling: _____
#Parties Owling: _____
#Observers Owling: _____

Hours Foot: _____
Hours Car: _____
Hours Boat: _____
Hours other: _____ (_____)
Hours other: _____ (_____)
Miles Foot: _____
Miles Car: _____
Miles Boat: _____
Miles other: _____
Miles other: _____

#Parties Regular: _____
#Observers Regular: _____

STATIONARY (eg. hawk watch point, gull count at a landfill)
Hours Stationary: _____

FEEDER WATCHING (actual time counting only at feeders)
Hours Feeder Watch: _____

	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Wind³</u>	<u>%Clouds</u>	<u>Precip.⁴</u>
Pre-dawn	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dawn	_____	_____	_____	_____
AM	_____	_____	_____	_____
Noon	_____	_____	_____	_____
PM	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dusk	_____	_____	_____	_____
Post-dusk	_____	_____	_____	_____

³Speed and Wind Direction, i.e. SE5-10.

⁴Heavy (as in hard downpour); Moderate (as in steady rainfall); Light (as in steady drizzle); Misty; Foggy; or Intermittent Drizzle.

COMPILED BY: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Guidelines for preparing documentation of rare bird sightings are included on page one of this insert.

Please enclose as many extra sheets as necessary to adequately document all speices marked with asterisks.

MD May Count 2000: Habitats in the Landscape

Many of us have been May Counters for several years. If you have been counting the same area each year, please fill out the following form and tell us about the land uses you see and how those uses may have affected the number and species of birds you find each year. You may be as brief or as detailed as you desire. Please also check off the types of habitats you visit to find the birds you report, and if possible, quantify them. Feel free to write short narrations on what you see as important changes in your count territory over the years. Excerpts from these reports will be used in the issue of **MD Birdlife** that will discuss the events of the day for May Count 2000 and give the statewide report.

Your Count Area: _____

How Many Years? _____ Same Route Each Year? _____

Land Use Changes:

Very little or no change over the last 5- 10 years _____

Change over the last 1 - 10 years (please provide as percentage of land use in your count area):

agricultural to residential _____	agricultural to commercial _____
agricultural to grassland/weeds _____	agricultural pasture to crops _____
agricultural to old field (small saplings scattered about) _____	
agricultural to early succession forest (small-med. pine/cedar with some hardwoods) _____	
large lot residential to light suburban sprawl _____	
light sprawl to moderate sprawl _____	moderate sprawl to urban _____
forest fragmented by roads _____	forest fragmented by houses _____
forest fragmented by agriculture _____	forest fragmented by shopping _____
forest fragmented by industrial sites (lots of open space around bldgs) _____	
grassland to forest by: plantings _____	natural succession _____
grassland to development _____	grassland to commercial (mining, warehouses) _____
vacant urban lots to open space _____	stream bank plantings _____

Habitats in your count area that you use to find the birds you report (please provide your best estimated percentage of this habitat in your area):

Forestland _____	How old? _____
Tidal wetlands _____	Freshwater wetlands _____
Manmade wetlands _____	River bottoms/stream channels _____
Streams where roads cross over _____	Tidewater shorelines _____
Freshwater riverbank _____	Ponds/lakes _____
Shrubby/scrubby _____	Hedgerows (planted; overgrown ditches/fences) _____
Overgrown fields (weedy) _____	Old fields (some saplings) _____
New residential/industrial/commercial lawns (mowed) _____	
Old neighborhoods (trees are old and canopy almost closes over) _____	
Cropland _____	Livestock pasture _____
Hayfields _____	Street scenes _____
Bridges/decks/piers/building ledges _____	Martin colonies _____
Nest boxes: _____	For which species? _____

Thank you so much for taking the time to provide this information.. Please give this form to your appropriate county coordinator when you turn in your May Count totals. Additional details are welcomed and may be written on the back of this form.

Hoping May Count 2000 was a rewarding day to each of you!

Sincerely,

Wanda Cole
Statewide Coordinator for MD-DC May Count

County Compilers only: Send your compilations by June 30, 2000 to Wanda Cole, May Count Coordinator, 29731 Apple Drive, Cordova, MD 21623-2803. E-Mail reports (preferred) should be sent to: wcole@dnr.state.md.us

Sunday, April 9

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Pocomoke River Canoe Trip. Prothonotary and other warblers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leader, Larry Zoller, at 410-647-9354.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Bethel WMA. Meet at 8:00 am at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen. One of Harford County's most loved birding locations, attracting many different species of birds, including Green-winged Teal, Greater Yellowlegs, Belted Kingfisher, and Swamp Sparrow. Leaders Mary Procell and Tom Congersky will meet at Harford Glen (at the west end of Wheel Road) at 7:30 a.m. For more information contact Tom at 410-676-6489.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Pea Island Refuge, DE for herons and waterbirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Shirley Bailey, at 410-943-8925.

Tuesday, April 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Matilda Weiss, at 410-337-2732.

Thursday, April 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Join the Natural History Society folks as they look for birds, wildflowers, etc. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Howard. "Timeless Patterns: The Seasons at Churchill," by Bob Mumford, professional photographer from Montgomery County. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Mike Kerwin at 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Kent. Combined meeting with Talbot and Caroline. Social hour will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by a talk by Dr. Alan Poole from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Dr. Poole is the author of "The Osprey" and is currently working on an update of "The Life Histories of North American Birds." 7:00 p.m. at Chesapeake College. For more information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Turning the Page: From Firearms to Field Guides," by chapter member/director and author, Howard Youth. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or by email at linnet@erols.com.

MEETING. Talbot. "Life Histories of North American Birds: Adventures in Updating a Classic" by Alan Poole from the Academy of Natural Sciences. Special joint meeting with Caroline and Kent chapters. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Horsehead Wetlands Center in Grasonville.

Friday, April 14

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. Kent. Dave Brinker will present a program on the colony of Brown Pelicans near Smith Island. 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Saturday, April 15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Kinder Park, A. A. County. Early migrants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Linda Baker, at 410-757-6913.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Fort Smallwood. Bring lawn chairs, lunch, a cooler, and sun-tan lotion for a day of armchair birding as the hawks fly over. Admission charge to get into the park. Trip will not go if rain threatens or an unfavorable wind is blowing. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Nursery Rd.- Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at I-695 Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Lev, at 410-823-2962.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Huntley Meadows And Mason Neck, VA. Beat the taxman and see the rails and kites with Beth Zang & Marsha Balestri. Meet Urbana Park & Ride at 6:30 a.m.. Pack a lunch. For further information, call Marsha at 301-473-5098.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Southern Maryland - Charles County Loop. Full day. Waterfowl, woodpeckers, sparrows and early migrants. Leader plans to shoot for 100 total species! Meet at 7 a.m. at Blockbuster Video, corner Rtes. 5 and 301. Limited to 12 people. For further details and reservations, contact the leader, George Jett, at 301-843-3524

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Trapp Pond, DE for spring warblers and other migrants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Shirley Bailey, at 410-943-8925.

Sunday, April 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Black Marsh Wildlands. Trip to North Point State Park, for a variety of birds on land, marsh and open water. 2 mile level walk. Telescopes useful. For further information and directions, contact the leaders, Brent and Mary Byers, at 410-686-7294.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. C&O Hotspots. Early migrants - some warblers and swallows expected - with the good possibility of lingering and migrant waterfowl. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot at the canal end of Sycamore Landing Road. For further information, contact the leader, Mike Bowen, at 301-530-5764.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Tunis Mills Estate. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Wayne Bell, at 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, April 18

MEETING. Allegany. Kevin Dodge will present a program on Alaska. 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building, 108 Washington St., Cumberland. For further information, contact Chuck Hager at 301-689-5344.

(continued at top of next page)

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Dot Gustafson, at 410-377-4120.

Wednesday, April 19

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Seneca. Early landbird migrants and some lingering winter land and water birds in traditionally rewarding area. Meet at 7 a.m. at parking lot at end of Riley's Lock Road. No reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, Dick Homan, at 301-229-1141.

Thursday, April 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Join the Natural History Society folks as they look for birds, wildflowers, etc. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

Saturday, April 22

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Fort Smallwood Park. Migrating hawks & variety of other birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Kim Hudyma at 410-859-8490.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Huntley Meadows. Trip to northern Virginia freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail for resident King Rails and spring migrants. Coots, Canada Geese on nests, turtles, water snakes and other water wildlife allowing close approach and good views. American Bittern, Sora both possible. Two to three hour (and mile) level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride at Beltway Exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Lums Pond w/ DOS. Meet at 7:00 am at the Glasgow High School Rt. 896. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2428.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Earth Day trip to Tuckahoe State Park. Joint trip with Caroline chapter Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton for a morning walk through Tuckahoe State Park and Atkins Arboretum. For further information contact the leader, Danny Poet, at 410-827-8651. OR meet at 1:00 p.m. at Tuckahoe State Park picnic area for a canoe trip upstream. Reservations required. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Austin Farley, at 410-822-7871.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Nassawango Creek and vicinity for warblers and other migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church east parking lot. For more information contact the leader Betty Pitney, at 410-543-1853.

Sunday, April 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Birding at Huntley Meadows. A day trip to this Virginia location. A good place to look for the King Rail. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride at Rt. 32 & I-70. For more information, call trip leader Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Violette's Lock To Riley's Lock. 1/2 day. Leisurely paced walk along C&O Canal. Early migrants, including swallows, warblers and vireos, and some water birds along the Potomac. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Violette's Lock off River Road. Limited to 8 people. Reservations required. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Gemma Radko, at 301-607-4374.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Destination TBA. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Jan Reese, at 410-745-2875.

MEETING. Washington. "Birding Costa Rica" is the program being given by Linda Keller and Beth Zang, Frederick & Washington Counties MOS members. 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. For further information contract Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Monday, April 24

MEETING. Tri-County. "Community Based Conservation" presented by Terry Thompson of the Nature Conservancy. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church in the Fox Room. For more information contact Allen Deward, at 410-352-5590.

Tuesday, April 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Elliot Kirschbaum, at 410-243-1481.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Migrant warblers, vireos and others. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at picnic area 18 (1/2 mile below Nature Center on Ridge Road). For further information and directions, contact the leader, Bill Dobbins, at 202-338-1321.

Thursday, April 27

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Nature Walk. Join the Natural History Society folks as they look for birds, wildflowers, etc. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30

Carey Run Work-n-Bird weekend Spring cleaning at the house and grounds in Garrett County. Time-outs for birding the woods and fields. Overnight accommodations available.

Saturday, April 29

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Marriottsville Warblers. Resident warblers and songbirds on trail along Patapsco River below Liberty Dam. Barred Owl possible. Perhaps the best location in Baltimore County to see Yellow-throated warbler. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information and directions, contact the leaders, Greg Miller or Paul Noell, at 410-243-2652.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at McKeldin. It's time for the spring warblers & we're sure to find a variety here. Moderate to tough terrain. Last year we had wonderful looks at Yellow-Throated Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Palm Warbler & lots more. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot on the west side of Marriottsville Rd, just south of the bridge over the Patapsco River (by the railroad tracks). For more information, call trip leader Mark Hoffman at 410-549-3598.

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FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Covered Bridges Of Frederick Co And Their Birds with Nancy and Doug Parker. Anyone who has counted at a covered bridge knows there are birds around. Let's see how many. Meet at Baker Park's covered bridge at 7:30 a.m.. For further information, contact Nancy or Doug at 301-663-1909.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Triadelphia Lake Area. Migrants in area of habitat variety; water birds. Bring scope. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Limited to 10 people. For further information, reservations and directions, contact the leader, Rick Sussman, at 301-774-1185.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Botanical trip to Morris Arboretum and Bartram Gardens, PA. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Paul Spitzer, at 410-476-5163.

Sunday, April 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Orioles at Phoenix Pond. For spring migrant warblers and resident Worm-eating Warblers and both Oriole species. Two or three miles of level walking. Meet 7:00 a.m. at Phoenix Pond on Phoenix Road. For further information, contact the leader, Michele Melia, at 410-358-5920.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Sunset Farms. This beautiful property in northern Harford County beckons many birds, not the least of which is the elusive Wild Turkey. Other possibilities include Pileated Woodpecker, Indigo Bunting, and Wood Thrush. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. at Sunset Farms. For directions to the farm and more information contact Bill Pflingsten at 410-838-5732.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Southern Frederick County — Lilypons, Nolands Ferry, New Design Road. Songbird migrants and waterbirds, shorebirds, field birds, swallows, raptors, sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Urbana exit commuter parking lot off of I-270. To make reservations and obtain more information, contact the leader, Gary Nelson, at 202-686-7062.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Wells Point Preserve. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Les Roslund, at 410-763-8169.

Tuesday, May 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Shirley Geddes, at 410-377-6583.

MEETING. Baltimore. Surprise program to be revealed later. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Wednesday, May 3

MEETING. Carroll. "The Maryland Yellow Book" by Bob Ringler. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eden Mill. An easy morning walk in one of Harford County's nicest parks. Bird species to includes Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinch, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Meet at the Eden Mill trail head, near the bridge on Eden Mill Road at 8:00 a.m. Leader Dave Powell can be contacted at 410-452-5806.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Huntley Meadows County Park, VA. For seniors, juniors and "in-betweens." Fifth annual intergenerational trip to a perennially popular birding spot. Warblers, marsh birds, possible raptors. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot. For further information, contact the leader, Luther Goldman, at 301-474-1240.

Thursday, May 4

MEETING. Frederick. "35 Years of Frederick County May Counts." Mike Welch, coordinator for the past 10 years will give us an overview. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School in the Music Room.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Pennyfield Lock. Migrant and nesting landbirds. Meet at end of Pennyfield Lock Road at 7 a.m. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Cyndie Loeper, at 301-530-8226.

Friday, May 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "New Frontiers in Birding - South Africa" by Daphne Gemmill. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

MEETING. Harford. Topic TBA. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-692-9305.

Saturday, May 6

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. North Tract - Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Whippoorwills, warblers & other migrants Meet at 5:00 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. For further information and the meeting location, contact the leader, Stan Arnold at 410-768-0155.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Milford Mill Park. For migrant warblers, thrushes and other songbirds; Wilson's Warbler possible, Barred Owl possible. Meet at park entrance next to Beltway overpass on Milford Mill Road. For further information, contact the leaders, Simon Calle, at 410-561-5940, or Lenny Marcus, at 410-494-0304.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Soldiers Delight Chorus of Whip-poor-wills at dusk.. Meet 7:30 p.m. at the historical marker. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. The Seasons at Fair Hill - Spring. Meet at 8:00 am at the Fair Hill Nature Center Covered Bridge Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Marcia Whitmyre, at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. C & O Canal from Point of Rocks to Landers for Migrating Warblers. Be sure to do your neck exercises beforehand. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse (2nd Street just west of College Terrace). For further information, contact David Smith at 410-549-7082.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Rock Run Mill. An early mourning search for early arriving warblers. Meet at the Rock Run Mill in Susquehanna State Park at 6:30 a.m. For more information, contact leader Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978.

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Sunday, May 7

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Shady Side, Anne Arundel County. Spring migrants. Half day. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Paul Speyser, at 410-266-5669.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Jug Bay For possible Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bluebird, Chat, Hooded, Prothonotary, Prairie, and Yellow-throated warblers, and Ospreys on nesting platforms. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Nursery Rd.- Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at I-695 Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103 or by email at tanager@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Pennyfield Lock. Another visit to this favorite birding spot. Every effort will be made to ensure participants see and confidently i.d. the warblers, vireos and other migrants that should be moving through. Meet at Pennyfield Lock parking lot at end of road at 7 a.m. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Sally Ann Waldschmidt, at 301-460-5841.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Andelot Farm, Kent County, for late migrants and Eastern shore residents. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Wayne Bell, at 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, May 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Ruth Culbertson, at 410-825-1379.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Mariner Point Park. This county park along the Gunpowder River is famed for its well groomed and very accessible paved trails. A birder walking along these trails is sure to encounter Great Blue Herons, Black-and-white Warbler, and Wood Duck. Meet at the park's back parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Leader Tom Congersky can be contacted at 410-676-6489.

MEETING. Kent. "The Horseshoe Crab and Shore Bird Migration" by Dr. Ben Poscover. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown. For more information, contact Gail Register at 410-778-9367.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bill Oberman's Banding Station, Calmes Neck, VA. We'll meet for early morning birding (optional) around 7 a.m. at Calmes Neck and move on to Bill's banding area around 10:30 a.m. First official chapter bird banding trip in many years. 1-hour-plus driving time from Beltway. For further information and reservations and driving directions, contact Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764.

Wednesday, May 10

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge. First chapter trip to this gem of a refuge located within Ft. Belvoir, VA. Landbird migrants and breeders in variety of delightful habitats. Some nearby fast-food places along Rte. 1 available for lunch after the trip. The leader is Ken Hollinga. For starting place and time (will be very early a.m., to avoid worst of traffic), directions to refuge and reservations, contact Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764.

Thursday, May 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Gunpowder River Trail, Pulaski Highway to Philadelphia Road for warblers, herons, orioles and Indigo Bunting. Trip to cover 1-5 miles, 1-4 hours, as desired. First third is easy walking. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Jones Road parking lot just off Rt. 40 where it crosses the Gunpowder River. For further information, contact the leader, Bea Nichols, at 410-687-1461.

MEETING. Howard. "When Birds Become Problems," by Bill Bridgeland, Environmental Consultant. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr. Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Mike Kerwin at 410-461-2408.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Patuxent River Park Drift Boat Trip. (Joint ANS trip). Peak migration time for songbirds; also marsh and waterbirds. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent advisable. Watch ANS News for directions to park. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at entrance gate to park. \$3 per participant Patuxent Park program fee will be collected. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994.

MEETING. Montgomery. "From the Texas Coast to Big Bend," by nonagenarian birder/photographer, Luther Goldman. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or by email at linnet@erols.com.

Friday, May 12

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Marlu Ridge for tanagers and warblers. Get your ears and eyes ready for tomorrow. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse (2nd Street just west of College Terrace). For further information, contact Linda Keller at 301-834-7312.

Saturday, May 13

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. May Count and possible Wicomico County Big Day. For more information contact the leader Charles Vaughn, at 410-742-7221.

Sunday, May 14

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Layhill Park. Migrant sparrows, warblers and other woodland and edge birds. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in first parking area on left after entering park. Limited to 8 people. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Howard Youth, at 301-770-7504.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Huntley Meadows, VA, for King Rail and other marsh birds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Herndon Steilkie, at 410-745-2610.

Monday, May 15

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Calvert County Hotspots. Visits to several excellent areas for landbird migrants and breeders, including warblers, first "discovered" by chapter birders during the 1999 MOS conference. An hour's driving east from I-495. For further information and reservations, contact the leaders, Lydia Schindler, at 301-977-5252; or Linda Friedland, at 301-983-2136.

Tuesday, May 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Wood, at 410-256-6310.

Thursday, May 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Gunpowder River Trail. See description for May 11.

Friday-Sunday, May 19-21

MOS Conference at the Marriott in Hagerstown in Western Maryland.

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Friday, May 19

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Pickering Beach, DE, for horseshoe crabs and shorebird fantasia by the light of the moon. Meet at 4:00 p.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Jan Reese, at 410-745-2875.

Saturday, May 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Oregon Ridge. Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people on an early spring walk through varied habitats for a mix of late migrant and summer resident birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oregon Ridge Nature Center parking lot. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Shorebirds & Waders - Bombay Hook NWR. Meet at 6:00 am at the Cecil Community Collage Parking Lot. Full Day. For further information, contact the leader, Brian Moyer, at 410-306-0967 (W) or 410-378-5307 (H).

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Little Bennett Park. Songbird migrants and local breeders in area of wide habitat diversity. Meet at 7 a.m. at King's Park, 1 mile east of I-270 (Clarksburg exit) along Route 121. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703-575-8418.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Bombay Hook and other Delaware Bay areas for shorebirds and other migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church east parking lot. For more information contact the leader Sam Dyke, at 410-742-5497.

Sunday, May 21

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Pocomoke Swamp for regional specialties (quest for Swainson's Warbler). Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Steve Ford, at 410-822-2796.

Monday, May 22

MEETING. Tri-County. "Waders" presented by John Juriga. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church in the Fox Room. For more information contact Allen Deward, at 410-352-5590.

Tuesday, May 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Josie Gray, at 410-922-1837.

Thursday, May 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Gunpowder River Trail. See description for May 11.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Southern Delaware. We'll start the trip at 6 a.m. in Prime Hook NWR, just north of Lewes. After 2-3 hours of late migrants and nesting songbirds at Prime Hook, we'll move progressively north to a succession of bayshore locations in Sussex and Kent Counties, looking for concentrations of migrant shorebirds at near the peak of horseshoe crab egg eating activity. Local breeders such as Seaside and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows also likely. For reservations, driving directions and information on reasonably priced motels near Lewes, contact the leader, Mike Bowen, at 301-530-5764.

Saturday-Monday, May 27-29

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Memorial Day weekend at Carey Run. Come & join us for a weekend of fun & birds at this MOS sanctuary in western Maryland. For the last number of years, the Golden-Winged Warbler has been seen here!. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Saturday, May 27

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Elk Neck Forest. Meet at 7:00 am at the Elk Neck Forest Entrance Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Parke John, at 410-287-6037.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Charles County For "Chucks" And "Whips." Second annual post-darkness trip for goatsuckers and maybe other denizens of the night. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Blockbuster Video, corner Rtes. 5 and 301, Charles County. Limited to 12 people. For details and reservations, contact the leader, George Jett, at 301-843-3524.

Sunday, May 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Owings Mills plus Liberty. Willow Flycatchers, Green Heron, Yellow Warbler, both Orioles, possible Chat, nesting Cliff Swallows, and more. May be hot and unsheltered from sun. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Macy's end of Owings Mills Mall parking lot opposite the Exxon station on Red Run Road. For further information, contact the leader, Gail Frantz, at 410-833-7135.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. Likely sightings include Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, and Prothonotary Warbler. This location is also nationally recognized as a great spot to watch Bald Eagles. Leader Les Eastman can be contacted at 410-734-6969. Plan to meet at Fisherman's Park (east end of Shuresville Rd) at 8:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Nassawango Creek/Blackwater NWR. Warblers, songbird migrants, waterbirds. Meet at 8 a.m. at place to be designated by leader. Bring lunch and snacks, 'scope, insect repellent and sun screen. Reservations required. Limit: 12. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Jim Green at (301) 208-2393.

Monday, May 29

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Upper Deer Creek Valley. Morning trip for Worm-eating Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, and Horned Lark. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Hidden Valley, at the North end of Madonna Road. Leader Dennis Kirkwood can be contacted at 410-692-5905.



Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: Cylburn Mansion, Baltimore City
MEETING DATE: August 28, 1999
MEETING START: 10:15 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:15 p.m.

In Attendance:

Officers & Committees:

Norm Saunders, President
Karen Morley, Vice-President
Kathy Neugebauer, Secretary
Jeff Metter, Treasurer
Larry Fry, Executive Secretary
Paul Zucker, Budget Committee Chair
Paula Ecker, Education Committee
Fran Saunders, Publicity Chair
Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Committee Chair
Jean Fry, Scholarship Chair
Mike Callahan, Conference Chair
Joy Wheeler, Library Chair
Rich Dolesh, Conservation Chair
Jane Coskren, Atlas Committee Chair
Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Long-Range Planning Chair

Chapters:

Allegany – no representatives
Anne Arundel – Al Haury, Lawrence Zoller, Gerald Cotton
Baltimore – Terry Ross, Roberta Ross, Josie Gray, Dot Gustafson, Carol Schreter, Gail Frantz
Caroline – no representatives
Carroll – Dave Harvey, Amy Hoffman
Cecil – Leslie Fisher
Frederick – Wilbur Hershberger
Harford – Thomas Congersky, John Nack
Howard – Mary-Jo Betts, Elayne Metter, Darius Ecker
Jug Bay – Dale Johnson
Kent – Patricia Wilson
Montgomery – Lydia Schindler, Rick Sussman
Patuxent – Tom Loomis
Talbot – no representatives
Tri-County – no representatives
Washington – no representatives

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Norm Saunders, who thanked the Baltimore Chapter for their hospitality. Welcome to all new Board Members.
2. **Review/Amend June Board Meeting Minutes** – The June minutes were reviewed. A typographical error regarding New Business was noted, and amended to read "extent and type of memorial to be placed." A Motion was made to approve the Minutes. This was **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED** by the Board.
3. **Review new Board positions and vacancies** – No vacancies to report! The following changes have occurred since the 1998/99 Board:

Elected Officers – Unchanged
Audit – Gerald Cotton
Budget – Paul Zucker
By Laws – Tom Loomis
Conference Chair – Mike Callahan
Local Conference Coordinator – Dave Weesner
Conservation – Rich Dolesh
Education – Maud Banks
Gifts – Sally Ann Waldschmidt
Investments – Mark Hoffman
Library – Joy Wheeler
Long-range Planning – Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
MD/DC Records Secretary – Phil Davis
MD/DC Records Chair – Harvey Mudd
MD Birdlife – Chandler Robbins
Season Reports – Dan and Linda Southworth
MD Yellowthroat – Norm Saunders
Calendar – Les Eastman
State MOS Website – Fran Saunders
Publicity – Fran Saunders
Research – Dave Brinker
Sanctuary – Dottie Mumford
Scholarships – Jean Fry
Seasonal Counts – Bob Ringler
May Count Subcommittee – Wanda Cole
Mid-Winter Subcommittee – Paula Jones
Fall Subcommittee – Chuck Stirrat
Atlas – Jane Farrell Coskren
Cavity-nesting – Mark Johnson
County Lists – Phil Davis
Mailing List – William Guion
Nominations – David Harvey
Environmental Fund Liason – Carol Jelic

A Motion was made to approve the new Officers and Committee Members. This was **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED** by the Board.

4. **Missing Annual Reports – Norm Saunders**
Anyone listed in Agenda that has not turned these in, please submit to Norm as soon as possible.
5. **Conference 1999 Wrapup & Conference 2000 Status – Mike Callahan**
 - No final report for 1999 Conference available as of yet.
 - Lou DeMouy to help with the transition.
 - Initial planning meeting has been scheduled at the Ramada Inn on September 9, 1999 by the Washington County Chapter.
 - Will be finalizing food options by the end of September.
 - Costs for hotel will be considerably less than last year (\$69.00/night)
6. **Publicity Status Report – Fran Saunders**
 - Nine Press Releases were distributed.
 - Banners are being considered, and if any local chapters are interested, please contact Fran. Information will be posted on the web site.
 - Developing a brochure to promote MOS. More information to follow on this as it progresses.
 - Fran requested that \$500.00 be allocated for the purchase and design of a Presentation Board for use to promote MOS.

A Motion was made to approve the funding of \$500.00 for the Publicity Committee. This was **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED** by the Board.

7. Sanctuary Building Inspection Report – Dottie Mumford

- Mike Knott has already completed the inspections on the properties. Final report is forthcoming and will be incorporating many of the items for repair during the Workdays. *Norm requested from Dottie that a final report be available at the next Board Meeting.*

- **Status of Ed Unger Memorial – Norm Saunders.**

Norm talked to Danny Poet/Caroline Chapter who has found a calligrapher and framer. Information is needed on the positions that Ed Unger held during his involvement with MOS; along with a picture of him. Norm asked everyone to go back to their Chapters and see if there are any pictures/information available about Ed Unger.

A bench will be installed on a current trail at Irish Grove. Some discussion ensued on what type of bench should be installed (concrete or plastic). This is still being investigated and more information to follow at the next BoD Meeting.

- Dottie has not heard from Fred Fallon on the Management Reports for the Sanctuaries. According to Norm this was being completed; however there has been no confirmation with Dottie on what has actually been accomplished. *Norm to follow-up to make sure Dottie is kept informed.*

8. WSB 1999 Final Report – Norm Saunders

Collection of all monies pledged have been received except from three people. Gross income from the event was \$4000.00, however expenses were higher than the previous year. Net profits were approximately \$1800.00 (\$200.00 increase over last year).

Monies collected (1998/99) have been spent as follows:

- Mist Net Replacement Program – \$500.00.
- MOS Scholarship – \$800.00 (1998).
- MOS Scholarship – \$800.00 (1999).

There are currently unallocated funds of \$1,350.00. *Norm is requesting input from the Gifts Committee on how best to use these funds (along with EFM Monies – see below).*

9. EFM Status & Recommendation – Norm Saunders (Report for Carol Jelicich)

There were a number of unanswered questions that had been raised at the last Board Meeting on the allocation of funds through EFM.

The results of this report includes:

- MOS received from 1997 Campaign just over \$4000.00
- MOS received from the 1998 Campaign, approximately \$450.00. Total amount is still uncertain

since this money comes in slowly.

- New structure for EFM under consideration. EFM is working with other environmental groups (as national Earth Share group) in developing partnerships. Feedback is favorable, but is still being finalized.
- New strategy – have hired an Assistant Director to actively promote and acquire new sources of corporate giving. The EFM Board have voted to take undesignated donations to EFM for the next two years to pay for this Assistant Director's salary.

There were a number of issues on how this money was to be spent. It was felt by other groups (as Mike Nelson, Executive Director for Audubon Naturalist Society) that this method of using the money was a viable method for increasing funding over the course of a year or two. Norm needed feedback from the Board on whether MOS should continue to support EFM and this new strategy.

This money collected from EFM is considered income to the Operating Fund in our current budget. The monies have not yet been spent and *Norm suggests that this should be brought to the attention of the Gifts Committee on how best to use this money.*

10. MOS Position Statement on Sunday Hunting

Norm has made some modifications to the statement originally drafted concerning Sunday Hunting. Many problems between birders and hunters stem around deer hunting and the issue of Sunday birding being in conflict with hunting. One of the major concerns involves the impact of excess deer populations on the environment and that hunting is the major method for eradicating the overpopulation of deer.

Rich Dolesh presented information on the current game management techniques and the issues surrounding the Sunday Hunting Bill. MOS has been traditionally against Sunday hunting. MOS needs to look at this issue, especially as it pertains to conservation issues surrounding the overpopulation of deer. This overpopulation of deer has a great impact on the overall health of our forests and the overall survival of many bird species.

The overall policy of MOS should be to not oppose hunting as it pertains to wildlife management, but to limit/oppose Sunday hunting for the sake of non-hunters (birders, hikers, outdoor recreation). Rich needs to get additional information on impact of hunting and other measures for curbing the deer population.

Rich also enlightened the Board on the three bills currently in Congress: the 1) Conservation & Reinvestment Act, 2) Resources 2000 and 3) Land's Legacy Commission. These bills can provide long-term funding sources for conservation. This information needs to be communicated to our Local Chapters, and individuals need to contact their Senator and Representatives to support these long-term funding options. Maryland can potentially see over \$5 million in funding for conservation issues from these Bills. There are also issues arising on Bills pertaining to Nuisance Wildlife Issues (as the euthanasia/control of resident geese populations at BlackWater that now exceed over 5000).

11. New Business – Norm Saunders

- Report of Cavity Nesting Committee – two objectives: 1) Get reproductive/performance information into an easy-to-access database, and 2) encourage others to submit nesting information. Based on this, Mark Johnson met with Chan Robbins to talk about nest records/nest card record card program that the FWS had managed for quite a long time. FWS has over 22,000 cards and his goal is to put this information into a database. So please go back to your local Chapters and promote this. Mark to present further information at the next BoD Meeting.
- Field Cards supplies are running low and will be reprinted. For those with suggestions on improving the cards, please let Norm know.
- Chan Robbins noted that there will be a meeting of the North American Atlas Committee to discuss long term planning and a new generation of Atlases. Maryland needs to coordinate on a national and international level so that there is consistency between all states on how information/data is collected. If a coordinated effort is launched (i.e. use the same software and all data collection to one central area (such as Patuxent) this could save a tremendous amount of time and resources. Volunteers

are needed for a project of this type of magnitude. MOS needs to look into avenues for funding both on a state and national level.; as well as add to the budget for MOS such funding options. It was noted that currently MOS has approximately \$35,000.00 allocated in the budget for Atlas development.

- Scholarships – Jean Fry announced that ten (10) scholarships would be awarded this year. Chapters need to appoint representatives to disseminate this information about these scholarships and solicit applications.
- Karen Morley – Announced that the MOS “toys” are being considered for the next MOS Convention. Chapters need to “pay up” for their purchases of current items.

A **MOTION** was made at approximately 12:15 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** and **APPROVED**.

*Decisions by the Board are marked in **BOLDFACE** type. Action items for further discussion at the board or chapter level are marked in **BOLD ITALIC** type.*

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Neugebauer
Secretary

Chapter Chatter

(continued from page 3, column 3)

webbmd@starpower.net. She is looking for barn owl sightings, potential sites, and volunteers to monitor nests.

The River of Raptors - Part One — Don Simonson of the Montgomery Chapter joined members of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association on a ten-day trip to Vera Cruz, Mexico last September. The State of Vera Cruz, located on the Gulf of Mexico as the land mass narrows into Panama, offers views of the largest hawk migration path in the world for a 20 day period in September and October. Understandably, it is called “the River of Raptors.” Ninety-five percent of the Broad-winged and Swainson’s Hawks in North America fly through this area. Don saw 350,000 hawks on his first day and twice that many the next. He saw 29 species of raptors. In addition, there were Wood Storks, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, orioles, and thousands of warblers. Pronatura Vera Cruz, the group’s host, is the local chapter of the Mexican conservation organization with chapters in various states. They have been working with the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Assn. by sending birders to Hawk Mountain to learn observation and counting techniques. Pronatura Vera Cruz is promoting sustainable and eco-agriculture, teaching local high school students to be hawk-watchers, buying land for a nature preserve, developing an interpretive center, and encouraging eco-tourism. There are currently two hawk-watching stations, one on top of a hotel in Cardel, a small inland city, and one farther inland on a local elementary school soccer field. They are staffed all fall by biologist/counters. Don reports that some of the hawks settle in the acacia thorn shrub plain in the evening and “it is thrilling to see them rise up in the morning like so many butterflies.” Needless to say, Don plans to go back to Vera Cruz.

The River of Raptors - Part Two: Howard Doubles Its Money — The Howard Chapter donates profits from its annual seed sale to various conservation projects. Last year’s money, \$1,500.00, went to the American Bird Conservancy for the River of Raptors Project. Funds donated to this project are matched dollar for dollar by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, making a total contribution of \$3,000.00. Details on how to achieve this doubled impact can be obtained from Chuck Stirrat at 410-531-2417.

Carroll County Member Visits China — Bob Ringer reports, “Highlights of my 16 days in China were seeing all six species of cranes that winter in China, a flock of 2000 Baikal Teal, four species of gulls I had not seen before, three species of parrotbills, four species of shorebirds new for me, and other interesting birds such as Chinese Babax, Azure-winged Magpie, and Godlewski’s Bunting. Accommodations ranged from fine hotels in the cities to rather spartan rooms in the backcountry (no heat, sub-freezing temperatures at night). We traveled by jet, overnight train, bus, sampan, junk, and high speed ferry. And if you are looking for a good Chinese restaurant I can recommend a few. It was great fun.”

Montgomery Maintains Lending Library — The Montgomery Chapter supports a lending library as a way to pass around used birding magazines and journals at meetings to those who might not have read them. The Chapter is also building a video collection to supplement the library. The four-tape set, “The Life of Birds,” is a recent purchase. “Watching Warblers” was donated to the lending library by Luther Goldman as a thank-you gift to the club. Joy Bowen is the librarian and she maintains a library table at each meeting for exchanging publications and videos. In addition, Chapter members

(continued at top of next page)

and the public can use the Claudia Wilds' Library of over 300 books maintained at the Black Hill Visitor Center.

Recruiting Members by Internet — Carol and Gary Roberts call themselves "Winter Texans," spending the colder months in Rockport, a far warmer climate than Howard County. A couple of years ago, while in Texas, they became interested in the beautiful birds all around them. Then, they found the Howard County Chapter's web site, a labor of love created and sponsored by Darius and Paula Ecker, and promptly joined as Summer Marylanders. In a recent report on the Aransas Wildlife Preserve north of Rockport where about 184 Whooping Cranes spend the winter, dry conditions have had a devastating effect on the ecosystem of the marshes. The salinity of the water is so high that crabs and other crustaceans have moved into deeper waters, depriving the whoopers and other wading birds of a principle source of food. Park employees have begun to selectively burn several large tracts in the park to expose acorns from Live Oak trees which lay hidden in the tall grasses. Earlier in the fall, these trees had a bumper crop of nuts. The rangers hope the burn-off will expose these acorns, an important part of the whoopers' diet.

Harford County Appreciates Benefits of MOS Chapter — On October 19, 1999, Susan Haselton of the Harford County Executive Council presented a Proclamation to the Harford Chapter recognizing the club's achievements and benefits to the citizens of Harford County. Debbie Delevan, president, and Debbie Stewart, secretary, accepted the award on behalf of the club. On November 5, the chapter hosted over 120 people at the Churchville Presbyterian Church to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Susan Haselton read the County's Proclamation to the audience. Chan Robbins unfolded the MOS history book and took everyone back to the time when the Harford chapter was just beginning, and recognized the achievements of members along the way.

Second Annual January Big Day — January 8, a team of four intrepid birders attempted Maryland's second January Big Day. Last year Marshal Iliff, George Jett, and Jim Stasz found 135 species. This year, Mark Hafner of Harford County and George Armistead of Philadelphia (and the Talbot Chapter) joined Marshall and Jim Stasz to set a new record of 138. They had some great successes: Harris's Sparrow, Black-legged Kittiwake, Semipalmated Plover, Willet, Ross's Goose, Clay-colored Sparrow, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Glossy Ibis, and Little Blue Heron. According to Marshal, they will admit to some "silly misses:" Red-shouldered Hawk, Rusty Blackbird, and Vesper Sparrow. But with only 10 hours of daylight, they had to plan an

efficient, productive Eastern shore itinerary focusing on Worcester County and landing a county record of 130 species.

Zany Timberdoodles Bemuse Talbot Chapter and the January Big Day Birders — Harry Armistead flushed a woodcock at his home January 23, and Talbot members were charmed when he shared some of his experiences with zany timberdoodles on the chapter's e-mail hotline. Friends of his found a huge influx of woodcock near Accomac, Virginia in mid-January. They flushed 100 or more a day while exercising their pointers. Harry once banded woodcock with Peter Tango by taking a jeep across grassy fields. They would fix a woodcock in the headlights, get out of the jeep, swing a large dip net directly overhead on top of the bird, then band and release it. Upon release, the woodcock flew straight up into the air until out of sight. Harry says this is called the "West Virginia honcho method." He reports it was a "treat to see these appealing, somewhat bizarre birds in the hand." Mark, George, Marshal, and Jim were delighted to find at least three displaying timberdoodles at Deal Island on their January Big Day.

Howard Driver Boxes an Owl — Bonnie Ott, who works at what she calls a "birdy" store, was astonished when a man came in with a cardboard box he said contained a "little owl." Bonnie held her breath and peeped inside to see a little brown back. The tiny creature was a Saw-Whet Owl. The rescuer reported he had been driving home in western Howard County when he saw crows attacking something on the side of the road. He pulled over, scared the crows off, and put the owl into a box. With advice and assistance from Jo Solem, Bonnie checked the owl for injury and, finding none, released it into the woods near her home. The little owl flew a short distance, perched on a bare branch and was gone on a later check. Bonnie calls it, "a memory of a lifetime."

Images of Maryland, 1900-2000 — On Thursday, March 23 and Saturday, March 25, Maryland Public Television will be airing a local production entitled Images of Maryland, 1900-2000. The program will pair commentary by Maryland residents with the work of Maryland's pre-eminent photographers. Gene Scarpulla of the Baltimore Bird Club was selected to give brief narratives about Hart-Miller Island, peregrine Falcons, and birding in Maryland. Gene's comments will be paired with images taken by Baltimore's Middleton Evans, a renowned outdoors photographer and author of several books about Maryland.



Cornell's BirdCast Needs You

by Ralph Wright

In the early days of World War II, British radar operators noticed mysterious, ethereal shadows drifting across their screens. Those apparitions, so wonderfully dubbed angels by pioneering radar technicians, heralded the beginnings of radar ornithology. Radar's first major contribution to ornithology took form only a few years later when in 1958 Sidney Gauthreaux, then a high school student in New Orleans, postulated that if radar can see planes and weather, why not birds. Only a few years later, as a Louisiana State graduate student, he found his proof. His radar images definitively proved the existence of massive trans-Gulf migrations. Prior to these observations, there was a continuing belief that the majority of migrants held to a more land bound, clockwise pattern; arriving in North America via Mexico.

Through the 60s and 70s, and 80's, however, radar's promise failed to fully evolve. There were a few notable discoveries, such as in 1989 when Gauthreaux, working from archival images, awakened the ornithological world to the precipitous decline in migrating flocks — down by nearly half when compared to the 1960's. The existing radar of the day, however, was proving largely inadequate. It lacked not only the necessary resolution, it also failed to provide a three dimensional view.

In the early 1990s, however, change was coming. The new, highly efficient NEXRAD Doppler radar (Next Generation Radar) began to be placed in service. The Air Force began investigating NEXRAD's utility in their Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard Program (BASH). During this period, portable NEXRAD units were teamed with vertically mounted thermal imaging units so that the images captured by the radar could be visually verified. Elsewhere, graduate students under Sid Gauthreaux were making their own exciting discoveries. Their breathtaking images of giant expanding aerial doughnuts were found to be thousands of Purple Martin radiating away each morning from critical roosting sites.

Radar ornithology work is now taking place in many parts of the country and it is soon to come to the Mid-Atlantic. With the support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development and the Office of Pesticide Programs, a coalition consisting of National Audubon, Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, Clemson's Radar Ornithology Laboratory, The Academy of Natural

Science, and GeoMarine (a private environmental engineering firm) "BirdCast" will be coming soon to a computer near you. To access BirdCast you will go to the existing Audubon/Cornell web site — <http://www.BirdSource.org>. Throughout periods of peak migration, BirdCast will provide a morning and evening, unfiltered snapshot of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. greater metropolitan areas. These images will be accompanied by an interpretation provided by the Clemson Lab. Hourly images, with the weather filtered out by GeoMarine, will be posted so that you will actually be able to observe the birds as they move over time.

Is this work being done just as a special favor for birders? Well, not exactly. You can think of BirdCast as an early alert and an environmental billboard on the Internet. Linked to BirdCast will be messages, developed by the Academy of Natural Science, such as admonitions against the use of certain pesticides as well as a number of other migrant friendly strategies that urban dwellers can employ. Later, as more of the eastern flyway falls under BirdCast's coverage, there is the very real possibility that the interpreted images can be useful in pinpointing critical habitat.

While all of this seems reasonably simple and employs proven technology, its not simple at all. In fact, its really research. What has been sorely lacking in the past is you. Most earlier radar work has been lacking a very critical component — ground-truthing. Dozens, hundreds, and, indeed, thousands of sets of eyes are needed to verify what the radar images are capturing and to that end, BirdCast will have an interactive component. Much like the current, highly successful "Feeder Watch" web site, BirdCast will allow you to log on and enter your daily sightings. These will feed directly into a computer at Cornell and at near real time feed back into running tallies which will be accessible through the same web site.

So, BirdCast needs you. Dust off those bins and get ready to head to your favorite haunts. While we encourage you to post each and every sighting, of greatest value will be sightings coming from those of you that can afford the time to make daily observations. These data will greatly enhance our overall understanding of migration patterns and movements. So, please, help us help the birds.



Woodcock



Don't know what a
MDOsprey is ???

(see page two)

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The copy deadline for the May/June issue of the Yellowthroat is March 25 for chapter activities and April 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for May-August to:

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